OMB NO. 1105-0002

	For Six Mo	onth Period Ending	SEP 3 () 2005	
		I - REGIST	RANT		
1. (a) Name of Alpine T	Registrant Courist Commission	(b) Re	egistration No.	2052	
c/o Swit 608 Fift New York	Address(es) of Registrant zerland Tourism h Avenue NY 10020				
2. Has there be	en a change in the information pre	eviously furnished i	n connection w	ith the following:	
(a)	If an individual: (1) Residence address (2) Citizenship (3) Occupation	Yes D Yes D Yes D] No		7/05 0/07 CHAVIOS/
(b)	If an organization:				
	(1) Name(2) Ownership or control(3) Branch offices	Yes [Yes [Yes [] No		2005 DCT 19 MAIN: 59
(c)	Explain fully all changes, if any	y, indicated in items	s (a) and (b) abo	ove.	
	IF THE REGISTRANT IS A	AN INDIVIDUAL, OM	IIT RESPONSE T	O ITEMS 3, 4, AND 5	6(a).
3. If you have	previously filed Exhibit C ¹ , state v	whether any change Yes □	s therein have o No □	occurred during this	s 6 month reporting period.
If yes,	have you filed an amendment to t	the Exhibit C?	Yes 🗆	No □	
If no,	please attach the required amendm	nent.			

¹ The Exhibit C, for which no printed form is provided, consists of a true copy of the charter, articles of incorporation, association, and by laws of a registrant that is an organization. (a waiver of the requirement to file an Exhibit C may be obtained for good cause upon written application to the Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Internal Security Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530.)

4. (a) Have any persons reporting period?		fficers, directors or similar off No 杠	icials of the registrant dur	ring this 6 month
If yes, furnish the	e following information:			
Name	Positi	ion	Date Connect	ion Ended
(b) Have any persons	s become partners, officers, d Yes □	lirectors or similar officials du No ☑	aring this 6 month reporting	ng period?
If yes, furnish the	e following information:	·		
Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
	² Pero	V.,		·
5. (a) Has any person n	amed in item 4(b) rendered s	services directly in furtherance No ☑	e of the interests of any fo	reign principal?
If yes, identify ea	ach such person and describe	his service.		
	vee or individuals, who have the registrant during this 6 m	filed a short form registration onth reporting?	statement, terminated the Yes □ No ☑	eir employment or
If yes, furnish the	e following information:			
Name		Position or connection	Da	ate terminated
rendered or will:	nonth reporting period, has the render services to the registrates secretarial, or in a related or	ne registrant hired as employee ant directly in furtherance of the similar capacity?	es or in any other capacity he interests of any foreign Yes \(\square\) No \(\square\)	y, any persons who n principal(s) in other
If yes, furnish the	e following information:			
Name	Residence Address	Citizenship	Position	Date Assumed
6. Have sheet form reg statement?	gistration statements been file Yes □	ed by all of the persons named No []	in Items 5(a) and 5(c) of	the supplemental
If no, list names of p	persons who have not filed th	ne required statement.		

II - FOREIGN PRINCIPAL

7. Has your co	nnection with any foreign p Yes	orincipal ended du No 🔀	ring this 6 mor	th reporting period?	,	
If yes, furni	sh the following informatio	on:				
Name of fore	eign principal			Date	e of termination	
	·					
0. 11	equired any new foreign pri	in ain al ² during this	6 month reno	rting period?		
8. Have you at	Yes	No 🖺	o month repo	ting period:		
If yes, furni	sh following information:					
Name and ad	ldress of foreign principal	v			Date acquired	
9. In addition reporting pe		nd 8, if any, list fo	reign principa	ls ² whom you contin	ued to represent during the 6 mo	nth
	ourist Commission	(Touristische	Gemeinsc	naft der Alpen	laender)	
Zurich/S	witzerland					
10. EXHIB (a)	BITS A AND B Have you filed for each	of the newly acqu	ired foreign pr	incipals in Item 8 the	e following:	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Exhibit A ³	Yes □	No 🗆	-		
	Exhibit B ⁴	Yes 🗆	No 🗆			
	If no, please attach the r	equired exhibit.				
(b)	Have there been any charepresented during this		its A and B pre	eviously filed for any Yes □	y foreign principal whom you No □	
	If yes, have you filed an	amendment to the	ese exhibits?	Yes □	No 🗆	
	If no, please attach the r	equired amendmen	nt.			

² The term "foreign principal" includes, in addition to those defined in section 1(b) of the Act, an individual organization any of whose activities are directly or indirectly supervised, directed, controlled, financed, or subsidized in whole or in major part by a foreign government, foreign political party, foreign organization or foreign individual. (See Rule 100(a) (9)). A registrant who represents more than one foreign principal is required to list in the statements he files under the Act only those principals for whom he is not entitled to claim exemption under Section 3 of the Act. (See Rule 208.)

3 The Exhibit A, which is filed on form CRM-157 (Formerly OBD-67) sets forth the information required to be disclosed concerning each foreign principal.

4 The Exhibit B, which is filed on Form CRM-155 (Formerly OBD-65) sets fourth the information concerning the agreement or understanding between the registrant and the foreign principal.

III - ACTIVITIES

11.	During this 6 month reporting period, have you engaged in any activities for or rendered any services to any foreign principal named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this statement? Yes \(\begin{align*} \text{Yes} \emptyset{\Bar{\text{M}}} & \text{No} \emptyset{\Data} \end{align*}
	If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail your activities and services:
	Dissemination of brochures "Vacation in the Alps". Insert placement of advertisement in Ski Club Newsletter for consumers. Distribution of monthly e-newsletter to consumers are general public who asks for it. Advertisement in National Geographic Traveler Magazine in April, July/August and September 2005 issues. Participation at the Mountain Travel Symposium in Aspen from April 2 to April 9 in cooperation with partners from the alpine countries.
	we refer to seperate sheet
12.	During this 6 month reporting period, have you on behalf of any foreign principal engaged in political activity ⁵ as defined below? Yes □ No ☒
	If yes, identify each such foreign principal and describe in full detail all such political activity, indicating, among other things, the relations, interests and policies sought to be influenced and the means employed to achieve this purpose. If the registrant arranged, sponsored or delivered speeches, lectures or radio and TV broadcasts, give details as to dates, places, of delivery, names of speakers and subject matter.
13.	In addition to the above described activities, if any, have you engaged in activity on your own behalf which benefits any or all of your foreign principals? Yes No No
	If yes, describe fully.

⁵ The term "political activities" means any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States with reference to formulating, adopting or changing the domestic or foreign policies of the United States or with reference to political or public interests, policies, or relations of a government aforeign country or a foreign political party.

IV - FINANCIAL INFORMATION

14 (-)	DECEMBE MONTE				
14. (a)	statement, or from a	n reporting period, have you received to any other source, for or in the interests inpensation or otherwise? Yes	of any such foreign prin	al named in Items 7, 8, and 9 of t icipal, any contributions, income	his or
	If no, explain why.				
	If yes, set forth belo	ow in the required detail and separately	· for each foreign princip	oal an account of such monies ⁶	
	Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount	
	we ref	er to seperate sheet			
		**			
				Total	
(b)	RECEIPTS - FUND R. During this 6 month foreign principal na	ASING CAMPAIGN In reporting period, have you received, armed in items 7, 8, and 9 of this statem	as part of a fund raising ent? ✓ Yes □	campaign ⁷ , any money on behalf No 껄	of any
	If yes, have you file	ed an Exhibit D to your registration?	Yes □ N	10 	
	If yes, indicate the	date the Exhibit D was filed. Dat	e	_ .	
(c)	RECEIPTS-THINGS © During this 6 month named in Items 7, 8 Yes □	of VALUE n reporting period, have you received, and 9 of this statement, or from any No 🗷	any thing of value ⁹ other other source, for or in th	than money from any foreign pre e interests of any such foreign pre	incipal incipal?
	If yes, furnish the fo	ollowing information:			
for	Name of eign principal	Date received	Description of thing of value	Purpose	

^{6. 7} A registrant is required to file an Exhibit D if he collects or receives contributions, loans, money, or other things of value for a foreign principal, as part of a fund raising campaign. (See Rule 201(e).)

8 An Exhibit D, for which no printed form is provided, sets forth an account of money collected or received as a result of a fund raising campaign and transmitted for a foreign principal.

9 Things of value include but are not limited to gifts, interest free loans, expense free travel, favored stock purchases, exclusive rights, favored treatment over competitors, "kickbacks," and the like.

15. (a)	DISBURSEMENTS-MON	IES			
	During this 6 month re	porting period, have you			
	(1) disb d or expense 9 of this statement	nded monies in connection with act ? Yes 🔀 No	tivity on behalf of	any foreign principa	i named in Items 7, 8, and
	9 of this statement	. 103 24 110	_		
	(2) transmitted monie	s to any such foreign principal?	Yes 🗆	No 🗆	
	If no, explain in full de	tail why there were no disburseme	nts made on behal	f of any foreign prin	cipal.
		in the required detail and separately any, to each foreign principal.	for each foreign	principal an account	of such monies, including
	Date	To Whom	Purpo	ose	Amount
	we refer	to seperat sheet			•
	we rere				
		e way			
		;			
	-				
			· .		
			,		
				e.	

Total

in

(b)	During this 6 mg	s-THINGS OF VALUE onth reporting period, have activities on behalf of any	you disposed of anythir foreign principal named Yes □	ng of value ¹⁰ other than more in Items 7, 8, and 9 of this No 🖪	ney in furtherance of or in statement?
	If yes, furnish the	e following information:			
	Date sposed	Name of person to whom given	On behalf of what foreign principal	Description of thing of value	Purpose
		· ·			
		· Aug			
(c)	During this 6 mc	, made any contributions o	you from your own fun f money or other things	ds and on your own behalf of value ¹¹ in connection wi tion, or caucus held to selec	th an election to any
	If yes, furnish th	e following information:		Name of	
	Date	Amount or t of value		political organization	Name of candidate

V-INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS

16.	During this 6 month reporting	period, did you prepare, diss Yes 🗗	seminate or cause to be diss No □	seminated any inf	ormational materials ¹² ?
	IF YES, RESPOND TO THE	REMAINING ITEMS IN SE	ECTION V.		
17.	Identify each such foreign prin	ncipal.			
	Alpine Tourist Comm	ission			
					:5-1
18.	During this 6 month reporting finance your activities in prep	period, has any foreign prin aring or disseminating inform	cipal established a budget of mational materials?	Yes 🖺	No □
	If yes, identify each such fore	• • • •	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
	Alpine Tourist Comm Zurich/Switzerland	ission (Touristische	e Gemeinschaft der	Alpenlaende	r)
	Budget for 2005: US	D 500'000.00			
19.	During this 6 month reporting informational materials include			or causing the dis	semination of
	☐ Radio or TV broadcasts	Magazine or newspaper articles	☐ Motion picture	films	☐ Letters or telegrams
	☐ Advertising campaigns		☐ Pamphlets or of publications	ther [☐ Lectures or speeches
	□ Internet	Other (specify) ge	eneral public who a	isk for it	
20.	During this 6 month reporting the following groups:	period, did you disseminate	or cause to be disseminated	d informational m	naterials among any of
	☐ Public Officials	₹ Newspape	ers	☐ Libraries	
	☐ Legislators			☐ Education: ☐ Nationalit	
	☐ Government agencies	☐ Civic gro	ups or associations	□ Nationalii	ty groups
	☐ Other (specify)				
21.	What language was used in th		(specify)		
22.	Did you file with the Registra disseminated or caused to be o			n of such informa Yes □	ational materials No □
23.	Did you label each item of suc	ch informational materials w Yes □	ith the statement required b No □	y Section 4(b) of	t! \ct?

¹² The term informational materials includes any oral, visual, graphic, written, or pictorial information or matter of any kind, including that published by means of advertising, books, periodicals, newspapers, lectures, broadcasts, motion pictures, or any means or instrumentality of interstate or foreign commerce or otherwise. Informational materials disseminated by an agent of a foreign principal as part of an activity in itself exempt from registration, or an activity which by itself would not require registration, need not be filed pursuant to Section 4(b) of the Act.

VI--EXECUTION

In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1746, the undersigned swear(s) or affirm(s) under penalty of perjury that he/she has (they have) read the information set forth in this registration statement and the attached exhibits and that he/she is (they are) familiar with the contents thereof and that such contents are in their entirety true and accurate to the best of his/her (their) knowledge and belief, except that the undersigned make(s) no representation as to truth or accuracy of the information contained in the attached Short Form Registration Statement(s), if any, insofar as such information is not within his/her (their) personal knowledge.

(Date of signature)	•	(Type or print name under each signature ¹³)
October 13, 2005		Raphael Enzler

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FARA REGISTRATION UNIT CRIMINAL DIVISION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

NOTICE

Title

Sup	Please answer plemental Statem		questions and ret	urn this sheet in triplicate with you	ır
1. CRI			f Section V (Inform I-Supplemental Sta	national Materials - page 8 of Formatement):	n.
	YES	yes	or NO		
(If y	our answer to que	estion 1 is "ye	es" do not answer	question 2 of this form.)	
2.	Do you dissemi	inate any ma	terial in connectio	n with your registration:	
	YES		or NO		
incl		catalogs, pos	ters, brochures, pr	for our review copies of all materi ess releases, etc. which you have	al
	Signature		<u>Oct</u>	ober 13, 2005 Date	
Rai	phael Enzler				
Plea	se type or print na atory on the line a			•	
(Chairman				



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

THIS FORM IS TO BE AN OFFICIAL ATTACHMENT TO YOUR CURRENT SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENT - PLEASE EXECUTE IN TRIPLICATE

SHORT-FORM REGISTRATION INFORMATION SHEET

SECTION A

The Department records list active short-form registration statements for the following persons of your organization filed on the date indicated by each name. If a person is not still functioning in the same capacity directly on behalf of the foreign principal, please show the date of termination.

Short Form List for Registrant: Alpine Tourist Commission

Last Name	First Name and Other Names	Registration Date	Termination Date	Role
Enzler	Raphael	07/27/2004		Chairman



U.S. Department of Justice

Criminal Division

Washington, DC 20530

SECTION B

In addition to those persons listed in Section A, list below all current employees rendering services directly on behalf of the foreign principals(s) who have not filed short-form registration statements. (Do <u>not</u> list clerks, secretaries, typists or employees in a similar or related capacity). If there is some question as to whether an employee has an obligation to file a short-form, please address a letter to the Registration Unit describing the activities and connection with the foreign principal.

Name	Function	Date Hired
·		
·		
none		
	,	
Signature:	Date: October 13	3, 2005
Title: Chairman		



Austria - Germany - Italy - Switzerland

Item 11 of Supplemental Statement: Period March 28 - September 30 2005

Promotional activities

Receptions and	Presentations:
----------------	----------------

August 29, 2005 Best of the Alps (BOTA) media luncheons for journalists and travel writers in Los

Angeles/CA at the Peninsula Beverly Hills in cooperation with partners from the

alpine countries.

August 30, 2005 Best of the Alps (BOTA) media luncheons for journalists and travel writers in

Boston/MA at NO 9 Park, San Francisco/CA at the Aqua Restaurant and in San Diego/CA at Café Westgate in cooperation with partners from the alpine countries.

August 31, 2005 Best of the Alps (BOTA) media luncheons for journalists and travel writers in

Minneapolis/MN at the 20-21 Restaurant and Bar and in Santa Ana/CA at Antonello's Restaurant in cooperation with partners from the alpine countries.

September 1, 2005 Best of the Alps (BOTA) media luncheons for journalists and travel writers in New

York/NY at the Spice Market, Chicago/IL at Porter's Steakhouse @ Hotel 71 and in

Denver/CO at "Q" @ Boulderado in cooperation with partners from the alpine

countries.

August 29 - Sept. 2, 2005 Product presentation for the travel industry in St. Louis/MO, Minneapolis/MN,

Chicago/IL, Boston/MA, New York/NY, Los Angeles/CA, San Francisco/CA, San Diego/CA, San Fernando Valley/CA, Orange County/CA, Seattle/WA, Boulder/CO, Denver/CO, Fort Lauderdale/FL and Miami/FL in cooperation with partners from the

alpine countries.



Austria - Germany - Italy - Switzerland

Item 14 (a) RECEIPTS OF MONIES

Date	From Whom	Purpose	Amount
04/15/05	Swiss Int'l Air Lines Ltd., Uniondale/NY	Joint promotion	35'000.00
04/15/05	Switzerland Tourism, New York/NY	Reimbursement USTOA participation	1'295.69
04/18/05	Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany	Var. expenses for BOTA media luncheons	3'500.00
04/19/05	Headoffice Zurich/ Switzerland	Current expenses	48'000.00
06/06/05	Picasso Travel, Los Angeles/CA	Joint promotion	17'000.00
06/22/05	Globus & Cosmos, Denver/CO	Joint promotion	50'000.00
08/08/05	Adv. on Skis, Houston/TX	Joint promotion	8'000.00
08/17/05	The Carlu, Toronto/Canada	Reimbursement over- payment media luncheon	423.41
09/02/05	Headoffice Zurich/ Switzerland	Current expenses	45'000.00
Total			208'219.10

October 10, 2005/NC



Austria - Germany - Italy - Switzerland

Item15 (a) DISBURSEMENTS OF MONIES

Date	To Whom	Purpose	Amount
03/28-09/30/05		Office expenses & bank fees	587.00
03/28-08/22/05	H.Brenner-Kahn, Flushing/NY	Newsletters, translations, fees and various expenses	6'085.00
03/28/05	Fricker Prod. Inc, Vail/CO	Musician Mountain Tvl Symposium	2'500.00
03/31-07/13/05	Switzerland Tourism, New York/NY	Reimbursement pre-pmts	5'579.17
03/28/05	Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	Marketing campaign with NGT 1 st Installment	115'000.00
04/15/05	lgoUgo, New York/NY	Website design	15'000.00
04/15/05	Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	Marketing campaign Spring phase	40'775.00
04/15/05	FARA reg. Unit, Washington/DC	Registration fee	305.00
04/20/05	Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	Exp. Mountain Tvl Symposium	3'903.75
05-09/05	National Ski Club, Englewood/Co	Adv. in Newsletter	10'999.98
05/06/05	lgoUgo, New York/NY	Redesign website & newsletter	4'000.00
06/23/05	Switzerland Tourism New York/NY	Part. BOTA media luncheons	5'000.00
07/08/05	Switzerland Tourism, New York/NY	Reimbursement deposit The Carlu ,Toronto, media luncheon	12'092.29
07/13/05	The Peninsula, Beverly Hills/CA	Deposit for BOTA media luncheon	1'000.00



07/14/05	Austria – Germany – Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	- Italy - Switzerland Marketing campaign with NGT 2 nd Installment	125'000.00
07/14/05	Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	Supplement On-Line campaign	30'000.00
07/15/05	Austrian Tourist Office, New York/NY	Part. BOTA media luncheons	5'000.00
07/18/05	Int'l Tvl Communications, Warren/NJ	Marketing campaign Fall phase	9'225.00
07/21/05	Luciano Bullo, Toronto/Canada	Reimbursement exp. The Carlu , Toronto, media luncheon	339.63
08/16/05	Erika Loser, New York/NY	Reimbursement exp. BOTA media luncheons	212.00
08/16/05	German National Tourist Office, Toronto/Canada	Reimbursement exp. The Carlu, Toronto, media luncheon	1'739.17
09/19/05	Menlo Consulting Group Inc, Palo Alto/CA	Moderation of a workshop	5'000.00
09/19/05	Peter Katz, Los Angeles/CA	Reimbursement exp. BOTA media luncheons	755.54
09/20/05	Switzerland Tourism, New York/NY	Reimbursement various BOTA expenses	3'845.56
Total			403'944.09

October 10, 2005/NC



AUSTRIA - GERMANY - ITALY - SWITZERLAND

For Immediate Release

Contact: Erika E. Loser erika.loser@switzerland.com info@alpseurope.com

The Alps –affordable and full of surprises

New York, July 7, 2005- The Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC) - a marketing alliance comprised of the tourism boards of Austria, Germany, Italy and Switzerland is holding its annual media luncheon in Toronto, Canada. ATC, which recently commemorated 50 years of close cooperation with the North American travel media, travel industry partners and North American public also announced the recent re-launch of its website www.AlpsEurope.com. Juerg Schmid, ATC President and President/CEO Switzerland Tourism, Zurich, highlighted the European Alps as one of the world's most desirable year-round travel destinations.

The Alps are still affordable...

In the competitive tourism market, the travel industry has successfully tapped local resources in the Alps and is offering exciting and well-planned tours to the Alpine regions, towns and cities - often at budget prices. On www.AlpsEurope.com you'll find such special deals as this early winter getaway for a 5-day escorted trip to the Alps; including air, transfers and 2 meals daily, starting at CAN \$ 973 (US \$ 785)). Or a scenic 7-day/6-night journey with spectacular train rides and mountain excursions starting at CAN \$ 967 (US \$ 779).

... full of surprises

Defined by a cultural diversity and roots to go back thousands of years, the Alps still hold many surprises. Treasures such as UNESCO World Heritage sites are spread throughout the Alps. Today's sport enthusiast's can hike or bike in the footsteps of ancient mule traders and surmount Alpine passes unimpeded. Skiers and snowboarders explore the runs and cross borders on the same day. Vibrant cities, quaint Alpine villages where one can mingle with the locals, all here for you to discover the diverse art scene, experience traditional festivals and innovative gastronomy and take you in with their charm and hospitality.

...and just a click away

Visit www.AlpsEurope.com for a virtual tour of the Alps. This comprehensive website has just gotten better. Sign up for the monthly news on special deals and the latest news on what's happening. Or join the newly designed online community, share the fun of your travel experiences and find a plethora full of reviews, advice and tips on traveling in the Alps. Whatever your interests, the Alps Europe Community has the inside scoop for you.

It's all there for you to discover - visit www.AlpsEurope.com





TRAVEL PARTNERS



lanning your next trip to the Alps just got a whole lot easier! As you surf our newly redesigned site, you'll find quick access to our helpful travel partners, a fresh focus on photography, Alps news and updates, and much more! Head to the Alps to check it out. But that's not all! Stay tuned for a brand-new Alps community, where you'll be able to get advice from other Alps travelers, write about your own Alps experiences, and much more!

Picasso Travel

Picasso Picasso

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- 5. "Schubertiade" celebrates Franz Schubert in Schwarzenberg.
- 6. Alpine Wellness in Südtirol/Alto Adige: "La Dolce Vita Linderhof"



1. THE BLACK MADONNA OF ALTOETTING TO BE HONORED IN WASHINGTON, DC

Altoetting, a picturesque Bavarian town, is home to a pilgrimage church harboring the statue of Our Lady of Altoetting, also known as the Black Madonna. A new chapel at the National Shrine in Washington will be dedicated to Our Lady of Altoetting.





Read More >>



2. MUSIC AND A HAYBATH ANYBODY?

Garmisch-Partenkirchen will host its annual Richard Strauss Festival from June 24 to 28, 2005. Hotels, including WellVital hotels in this popular climatic health resort at the Zugspitze offer excellent deals.

Read More >>



3. GRINDELWALD, THE EIGER VILLAGE, SENDS SUNNY GREETINGS AND SPECIAL DEALS.

Grindelwald, the Eiger village, sends sunny greetings and special deals.

Read More >>



4. KITZBUEHEL BECKONS WITH AUSTRIAN CHARM AND FAMILY PACKAGES "KITZ4KIDS"

The famous resort town in Austria's Tirol beckons with family packages, "KITZ4KIDS", at low rates! Prices for 7 days of vacation fun for parents with one child in a Bed&Breakfast start at USD 405, including children's program. Golfing enthusiasts can tee off on four golf courses.



Read More >>

5. "SCHUBERTIADE" CELEBRATES FRANZ SCHUBERT IN SCHWARZENBERG.

The music of Franz Schubert annually delights audiences from all over the world. All summer long from mid May to mid September 2005 celebrated artists as tenor Michael Schade and pianist Alfred Bendel will perform "Mostly Schubert" in the most picutresque setting in the charming village of Schwarzenberg in Austria's western-most province, Vorarlberg.



Read More >>

6. ALPINE WELLNESS IN SÜDTIROL/ALTO ADIGE: "LA DOLCE VITA LINDERHOF"

Italy's Südtirol/Alto Adige regionis defined by the Dolomites and extraordinary cultural variety with Roman, Germanic and modern Italian influences. Relax and feel rejuvenated at "La Dolce Vita Linderhof", one of the region's seven Alpine Wellness Hotels. Pay a visit to Reinhold Messner's Juval Castle, or to Trauttmansdorff Castle near Naturns.



Read More >>

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information on the Alps, please visit www.alpseurope.com For additional information on the member countries of the Alpine Tourist Commission (ATC), please contact the individual tourist offices:

Austrian Tourist Office, Inc., Tel. (212) 944-6880, Fax (212) 730-4568, P.O. Box 1142, New York, NY 10108-1142; travel@austria.info; www.austria.info/us. New York, NY 10036

German National Tourist Office, Tel. (212) 661-7200, Fax (212) 661-7174, Toll Free number: 1-800-651-7010; 122 East 42nd Street, Chanin Bldg., 20th Floor, New York, NY 10168-0072; gntonyc@d-z-t.com;

www.cometogermany.com

Italian Government Tourist Board, Tel (212) 245-5618, Fax (212) 586-9249, 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1565, New York, NY 10111; ENITNY@italiantourism.com; www.italiantourism.com

Switzerland Tourism, Tel. (212) 757-5944, Fax (212) 262-6116; 608 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020; info.usa@switzerland.com; usa.myswitzerland.com

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AlpsEurope.com, you'll find quick access to our helpful travel partners, a fresh focus on photography,

Alps news and updates, and much more.

Head to the Alps now to check it out!



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Switzerland with an Italian accent. 4 days/3 nights land

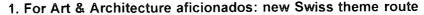
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- 3. The Bregenz Festival summer highlight on Austria's musical calendar
- 4. Undiscovered Italy The Castles of Trentino
- 5. No need to schlepp your luggage in Switzerland!



Hiking the Alpbach
Valley
7 nights land
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Experience Art & Architecture in Switzerland as a journey of adventure. Discover buildings by Le Corbusier, Mario Botta, Herzog & de Meuron, Renzo Piano, Peter Zumthor. The self-guided theme route leads through 26 cities, including Bern, the capital, Basel, the museum city, and trendy Zurich. Event highlights in Basel are "Picasso surreal" as well as photography by Jeff Wall. In Bern the new Paul Klee Center will open in June, and in Zurich, visitors encounter life-size teddy bears as whimsical arts objects this summer.





2005 summer timetable More details »

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2. BUGA 2005 in Munich - a passionate gardener's dream

Friends of flowers will flock to BUGA 05, Germany's National Garden Festival, which opened in Munich on April 28 and will continue through October 9. Visitors can look forward to a total change of pace as they virtually dip into a sea of blossoms, lie on a carpet of wildflowers in a 200-hectare landscape park, swim in a14-hectare lake, partake of Bavarian culinary delights, and get new insights into hobby gardening. There are a Leaf Garden, Cell Garden, Parallel Gardens, and Sunken Garden and much more.



Direct links to:



Switzerland

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3. The Bregenz Festival - a highlight on Austria's summer calendar

The Austrian cultural summer is defined by an array of world-famous music festivals in Vienna, Salzburg, Innsbruck, and Bregenz. At the Bregenz Festival you will find the best of all worlds - music, mountains, and water - from July 20 to August 21, 2005. Bregenzer Wald, the magnificent forest outside the city on the lake, beckons before, during or after the festival.



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4. Undiscovered Italy - The Castles of Trentino

Trentino, a land of mountains, forests, waterfalls and meadows in the eastern Italian Alps, is home to an astounding number of castles. Six itineraries let you discover these historic sites. An aura of romance and power is palpable as soon as you enter the impressive portal of a castle or stately manor. Tournaments were once held here, and knights guarded the route between Rome and the Germanic regions in the north. Frescos on high ceilings and walls bear witness to a time of chivalry, legend and lore.



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5. No need to schlepp your luggage in Switzerland!

Fast Baggage service launched by Swiss Federal Railroads. Visitors to Switzerland have another reason to rejoice: They can check-in their luggage at a selected tourist resort and pick it up the same day at another one. What could be more convenient? Check out resorts and prices.



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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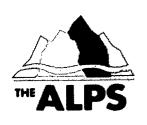
Austrian Tourist Office, Inc., Tel. (212) 944-6880, Fax (212) 730-4568, P.O. Box 1142, New York, NY 10108-1142; travel@austria.info; www.austria.info/us. New address: AUSTRIAN TOURIST OFFICE; 120 West 45th Street, 9th floor; New York, NY 10036

German National Tourist Office, Tel. (212) 661-7200, Fax (212) 661-7174, Toll Free number: 1-800-651-7010; 122 East 42nd Street, Chanin Bldg., 20th Floor, New York, NY 10168-0072; gntonyc@d-z-t.com; www.cometogermany.com

Italian Government Tourist Board, Tel (212) 245-5618, Fax (212) 586-9249, 630 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1565, New York, NY 10111; ENITNY@italiantourism.com; www.italiantourism.com

Switzerland Tourism, Tel. (212) 757-5944, Fax (212) 262-6116; 608 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10020; <u>info.usa@switzerland.com</u>; <u>usa.myswitzerland.com</u>

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Head to the Alps now to check it out!

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1. Calling all hiking, mountain biking and nature aficionados



Zurich Cuisine on the Menu More details >>

The Aletsch Glacier region, the first UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site in the Alps, is still one of the "insider tips" for discovering awe-inspiring, pristine nature. Stay at the <u>Sporthotel Derby in Fiesch</u> and you might just find the adventure of a lifetime with one of their offerings. Not for the faint-hearted...



Direct links to:



🛮 📕 Italy

Switzerland

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2. From the steepest to the fastest--hitch a ride!

On Mt. Pilatus the summer season was kicked off recently with the opening of the world's steepest cogwheel train. Enjoy the ride of a lifetime on an aerial cableway with a 48% gradient on a day excursion out of Lucerne. Experience it this summer together with the other highlights of Lucerne, its lovely lake and magical mountains.



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3. Retracing the footsteps of Pope Benedict XVI in the Bavarian countryside

Germany is replete with sites visited by travelers and pilgrims from far beyond the country's borders. Visitors of all faiths will find respected and revered sites and memorials throughout the land.

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The newly elected Pope was born in Bavaria and the towns and villages associated with his life and work are all situated in the foothills of the Alps or on famous rivers: Marktl, Altötting, Traunstein, Munich, Freising and Regensburg.



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4. A treat for opera lovers: The Munich Opera Festival in June and July

Munich is looking forward to hosting visitors from the United States and beyond at its annual Opera Festival, which will take place from June 26 to July 31, 2005. Visitors to the Opera Festival can also enjoy BUGA, the spectacular National Flower Show. This summer, the Bavarian capital has more to offer than ever. Make it your base for excursions to the Alps before or after the Opera Festival.



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5. Piedmont's Parks--high altitude adventures at the Monte Rosa

Pack your backpack and discover Piedmont's Parks in Italy's northwestern Alps. While Piedmont prepares for the XX Olympic Winter Games, February 10 - 26, 2006, you can explore the region in the summer. Hike the hills, heaths and explore paleontological sites and botanical gardens. Alagna, an ancient Walser village in Valesia, is an ideal base for excursions to the Monte Rosa National Park in Valesia, Europe's highest park. An international competition, the Monterosa Skyrace takes place in July.



Read More >>

6. Alta Badia: summer delights in the heart of the Dolomites

The Alta Badia valley in Südtirol/Alto Adige, at the foot of the majestic peaks of the Dolomites, is embedded in an enchanting, unspoiled Alpine landscape. The friendly people and age-old traditions of the six villages will transport you into a bucolic fairytale land. Hie to the hills, or plan a wedding in a castle, escape to a "refugi" and leave all cares behind. Bolzano, the regional capital offers fun events: Dolomites Bike Ride July 31 - August 6. "Bolzano Danza", International Dancing Summer in Bolzano July 17 - 31, 2005.



Read More >>

7. Austria's amazing array of events: in Innsbruck, Bregenz and Salzburg

An extraordinary array of cultural events awaits you in Austria this summer:

- Ambras Palace Concerts, Innsbruck July 13 -August 10, 2005
- Early Music Festival, Innsbruck August 13 28, 2005
- Bregenz Festival, July 20 August 21, 2005
 The Salzburg Festival, July 25 August 31, 2005

Culture and nature live in close proximity in this lovely land. Recharge your mind and body at unbelievably affordable rates.

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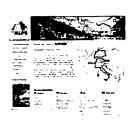
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- 5. Families can rejoice Alto Adige's bargains for kids!
- 6. Take a hike to Becherhaus, Italy's highest-located mountain hut
- 7. Bad Reichenhall's Alpine Wellness offerings
- 8. Border-crossing bike tour to King Ludwig's castles and Alpine lakes

1. Exploring Grossglockner, Austria's highest mountain

Calling all summer visitors to Salzburg: Don't miss an excursion to Austria's Grossglockner! The mountain giant is ideal for trekking, biking, motorcycling adventures or a bus tour. On the way up, the view opens to Pasterze, Austria's largest glacier. Salzburg is a superb base also for an outing to Werfen's World of Ice Giants, a 26-mile cave system sending shudders down your spine. Romantics build memories in 900-year-old Hohenwerfen, of "Where Eagles Dare" and "Sound of Music" fame.



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2. Thrilling Three-Country Marathon around Lake Constance

Direct links to:



The Alpine countries are a haven for sports enthusiasts - Austria is no exception. In summer and fall its sporty populace runs, hikes, bikes at every opportunity. If you are a runner looking for challenges, the 3-Countries Marathon is ideal for you. Start in the beautiful German harbor town of Lindau on Lake Constance; next stop is Bregenz, capital of the Austrian Vorarlberg province; then run along the scenic lakeshore to Switzerland. Traverse idyllic villages and get a refreshing repast by the wayside. The physical and spiritual rewards of this Marathon are plentiful. You will even see the mythical Rhine River before returning to Austria!



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3. Roll through Switzerland's highways or byways on your Harley Davidson

Discover the greatest Swiss vantage points sitting on the saddle of your Harley Davidson, BMW, Yamaha, Honda or Triumph. Thunder through the Swiss mountains at the speed of your choice. The Alps are yours to discover on an excellent network of roads. Crossing the borders to the neighboring Alpine countries of Austria, Italy and Germany is another tempting possibility easily realized. Netbike offers several options. Find out...



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4. Visit eternal ice on Glacier 3000

Come and see the incredible panorama! The Glacier 3000 was reopened in June 2005. At your disposal are the following modes of transportation: Cableway Pillon-Glacier; Chairlift Scex Rouge for pedestrians; snow bus; huskies; walking paths; cross-country skiing (3 miles of summer skiing). The self-service of the remarkable Botta 3000 restaurant is open daily. Welcome to fantastic vistas and memorable hikes!



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5. Families can rejoice - Alto Adige's bargains for kids!

Looking for a change of pace? Come with the family to Südtirol/Alto Adige. Up to September 10, 2005, specific programs for children will keep the small fry happy and the parents relaxed. Animal farms and bathing lakes beckon in a landscape dominated by the breathtaking Dolomites. Big discounts make summer vacations affordable in Italy's eastern Alps.



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6. Take a hike to Becherhaus, Italy's highest-located mountain hut

Do you dare? The eastern Italian Alps tempt Alpinists and experienced hikers to climb to cliff-hugging cabins. The Becherhaus hut is perched at 10,480 feet above



sea level. You can get a repast there - besides the feeling of being the master of the mountains.



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7. Bad Reichenhall's Alpine Wellness offerings

When is Bad not bad? When it denotes "Bath" or "Spa" in German! Bavaria's royal family started Bad Reichenhall's spa tradition after having discovered the therapeutic effect of the salt mines in the 19th century. Today, a spa visit to Bad Reichenhall is within everyone's reach. Magnificent parks, an elegant pedestrian area dotted with exclusive boutiques, cozy restaurants, and historical sights attract visitors from the United States and beyond.



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8. Visit King Ludwig II's castles on a border-crossing bike tour

Conquer hill and dale in the magical countryside of Germany's pre-Alpine region. Bike Tours Direct presents well-priced packages offered by European bicycling tour companies. Check out their alluring self-guided border-crossing tour that includes visits to castles built by the dreamer King Ludwig II. Also part of the bike tour: Lovely Lake Chiemsee, Salzburg and Austrian lakes. Enjoy the hospitable people of this lovely region, their customs and cuisine. Bike Tours Direct offers excellent prices - true value for your money.



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- 6. Canyoning, wild-water rafting, and tandem gliding in Val Gardena
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- 8. The German Alpine Road's guided tour to world-famous sites

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1. Golfing in Südtirol/Alto Adige – surrounded by Dolomite spires

Although Italy's eastern Alps are associated primarily with skiing the Dolomites in the winter season, or climbing the jagged rocks in summer and fall, golfing is becoming ever more popular with visitors from the United States and beyond. Near Meran, you can now tee off on a new 18-hole golf course in the Passeier Valley surrounded by Dolomite peaks, and near Bolzano, in the Alta Badia Valley, you will find the region's highest golf course! See details and check out some charming golf hotels...



Direct links to:

Germany
Austria

■ Italy

Switzerland

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2. Exciting news from mythical Mt. Pilatus: Opening of Suspension Rope Park

Visitors from the United States can look forward to even greater enjoyment on Mt. Pilatus: The Pilatus Rope Park, Central Switzerland's largest suspension rope park will open at Fräkmünteg on September 3, 2005. The fabled mountain above Lake Lucerne is one of the Alps' most popular excursion destinations. It features hiking trails, Switzerland's longest summer sledge run, famous hotels such as the Pilatus-Kulm, and restaurants for all budgets. Two aerial cable cars and the world's steepest



cogwheel train whisk you to the peak in comfort. Find out more...

Read More >>

3. Munich's 172nd Oktoberfest starts September 17 – book now!

Munich is often referred to as a city with a heart and as Bavaria's capital of good cheer. Visitors from the United States and beyond will once again be welcomed with open arms at the upcoming Oktoberfest. The generous heart of this charming city beckons. The famous Oktoberfest originated in 1810, when a royal wedding was celebrated. The people of Munich were at that time invited to celebrate the festive occasion and enjoy Munich's pure beer. Today, the locals are joined by millions of visitors from near and far, who come to enjoy Oktoberfest beer and have an exhilarating time. Please book now - rooms are filling fast.



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4. It's not all uphill in Switzerland - a veritable mountain bike paradise

It is no surprise that passionate mountain bikers rave about Switzerland's fantastically designed hiking tours. Countless trails guide you to some of the world's most breathtaking vistas. The trails are signposted and interesting trailside markers explain the local flora, fauna, geology, and history. Mountain inns and huts as well as barbecue sites are found throughout the huge network of mountain trails. See examples of the fantastic offerings...



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5. A border-crossing trail - Via Alpina and its Austrian legs...

On its route, Via Alpina embraces eight countries, 30 regions, cantons or provinces and over 200 towns and villages. Tirol's capital, Innsbruck, serves as a perfect departure point for hiking some of these scenic trails that are part of Via Alpina, the new multi-country hiking trail. Find out more...



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6. Canyoning, wild-water rafting, tandem gliding in Val Gardena

Südtirol/Alto Adige is blessed with a breathtaking landscape of mountains defined by cliffs, crags and spires: the Dolomites. Its famous vacation resorts nestle in scenic valleys surrounded by the awe-inspiring pink and yellow Dolomite rocks. Val Gardena, a lovely valley, is only 25 miles from Bolzano, the regional capital. Val Gardena's Extreme Marathon will be held on September 18, 2005. Exciting sports such as canyoning, rafting, and paragliding, supervised by local experts, will draw visitors to Val Gardena this summer



and fall. Find out more...

Read More >>

7. Innsbruck, ideal starting point for hiking tours into the Tirolean countryside

The hills are still alive in Austria - with hikers and music! If you are looking for picture perfect scenery, invigorating mountain air and crystal clear lakes, affordable accommodation and cozy ambience, you will find it all in Austria. Cost-free guided city tours are offered in Innsbruck, the Tirolean capital. Invigorating hiking tours into the countryside are easily arranged as well. Hike the Eagle's trail, or find the Alpine rose, pine trees and jays. Discover more...



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8. The German Alpine Road's guided tour to world-famous sites

If you have always wanted to see King Ludwig II's castles and other fabulous sites like Garmisch-Partenkirchen at the foot of Zugspitze, Germany's tallest mountain, or a romantic lake like Lake Tegernsee - here is your chance. The German Alpine Road offers a well-priced tour to these fascinating places dotting the western part of Germany's oldest vacation road. You will even have a chance to attend "Ludwig II - Yearning for Paradise", the tuneful and romantic musical based on the life of the dreamer king. You will enjoy the traditional Bavarian hospitality.



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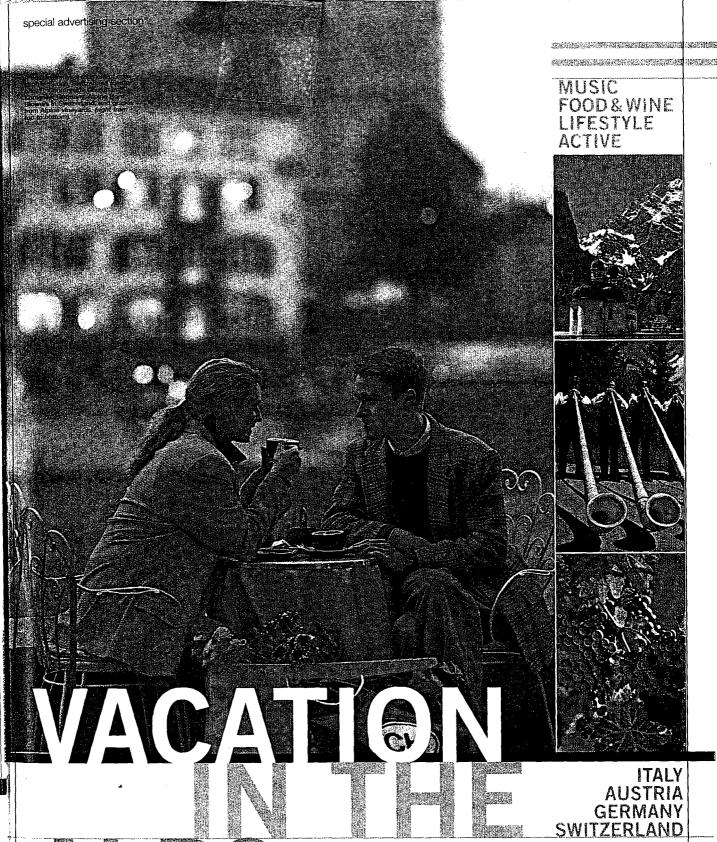
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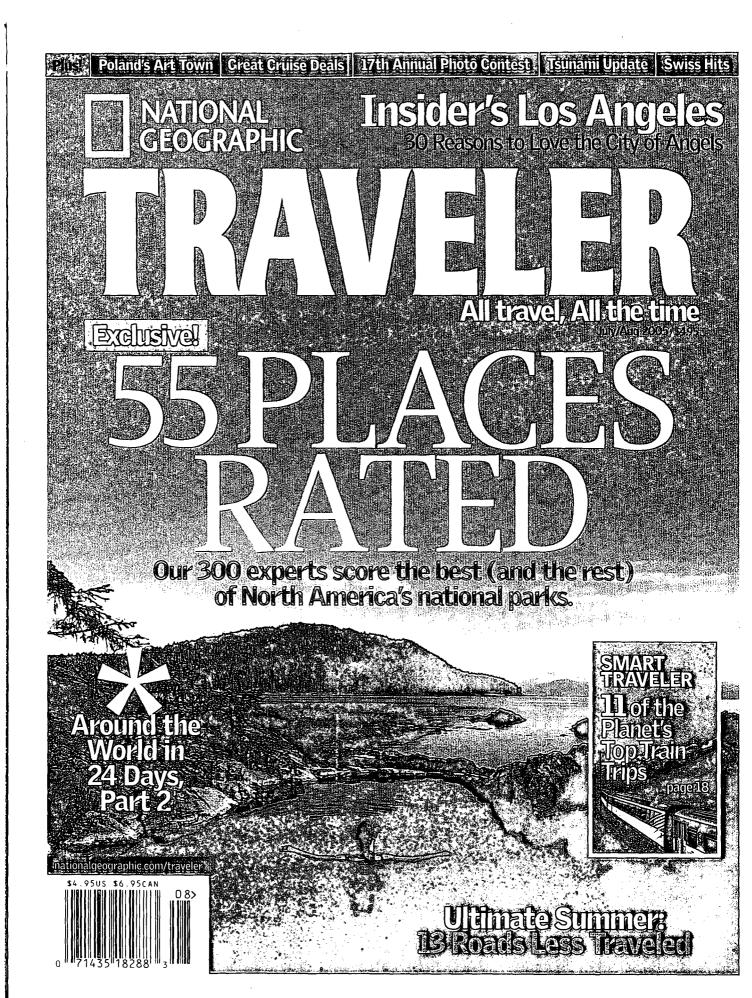
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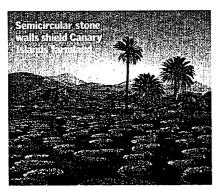
CROSSING BORDERS AND CULTURES





[Trips Quiz] WorldWise

Origins of Place-Names



1 The Canary Islands (above) seem to be named for the bird, but these Atlantic isles were actually named Canariae Insulae by the Romans, referring to what mammals?

Which major Hungarian city, on the site of an ancient Roman camp called Aquincum, is now named for two towns on opposite banks of the Danube?

3 Toponymists suggest the Sanskrit words *yava dvipa*—barley island—as the possible origin for Java, the name of what nation's most populous island?

4 A Mongolian word meaning "hard soil strewn with gravel" gives name to which vast, windswept desert that covers large parts of Mongolia and China? This desert is more than twice the size of France.

5 | Seward's Folly, Icebergia, and Walrussia were among the names given to what U.S. territory before it adopted its Aleutian name, which means "the great land"?

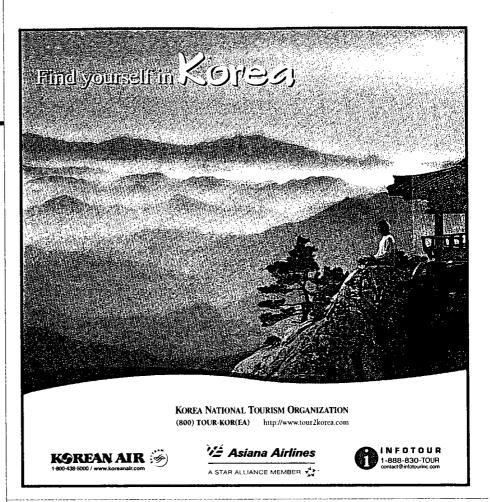
6 What two present-day African nations occupy the land once named for Cecil Rhodes, a founder of the British South Africa Company that administered the country?

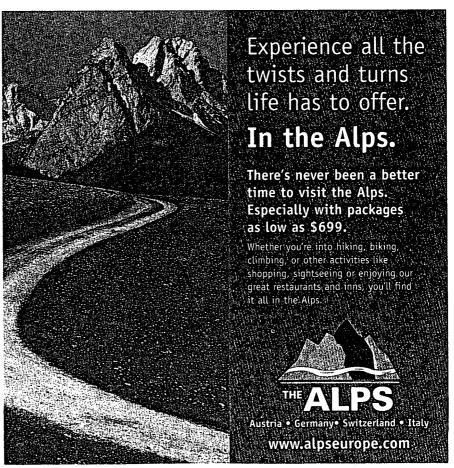
7 Which North Atlantic island was known to ancient Romans as Hibernia, from the Old Celtic name Iverna? It boasts one of Europe's most dynamic economies.

The name of what small, landlocked European nation, a fief of the Holy Roman Empire in the mid-1300s, comes from Old Saxon *lucilin* (little) and *burhuc* (fortress)?

9 What Indian Ocean island, formerly called Ceylon, was known to Arab traders as Serendip? That word, which gave us *serendipity*, came from a Persian fairy tale about princes who made lucky discoveries.

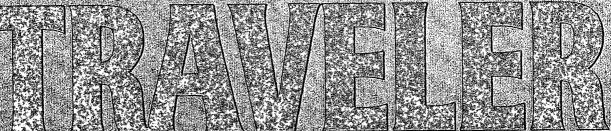
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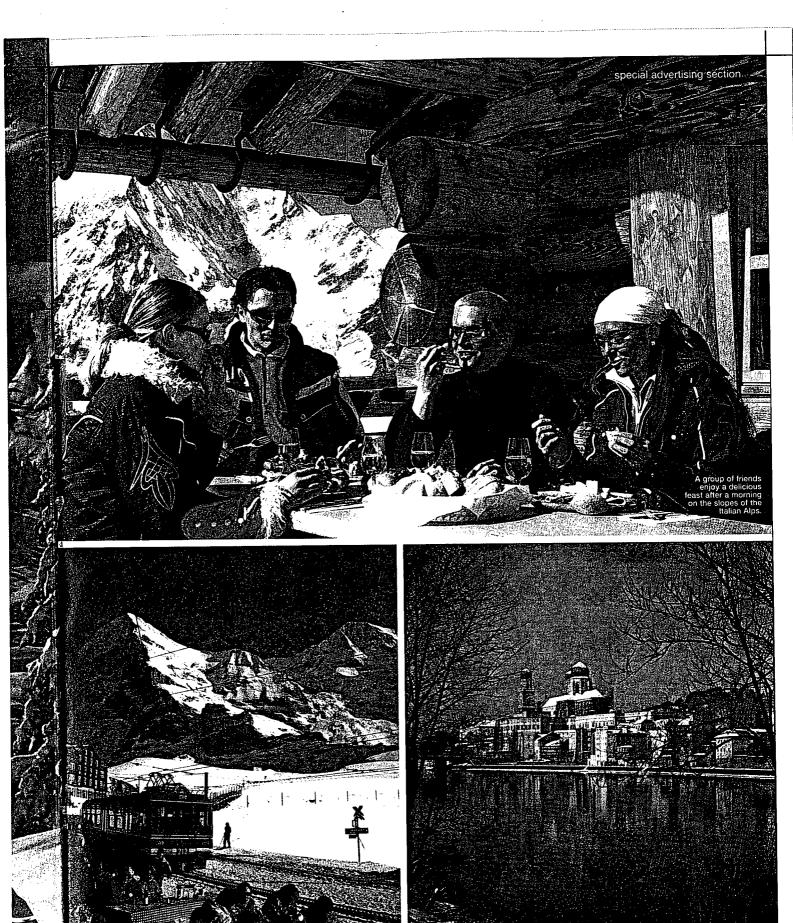


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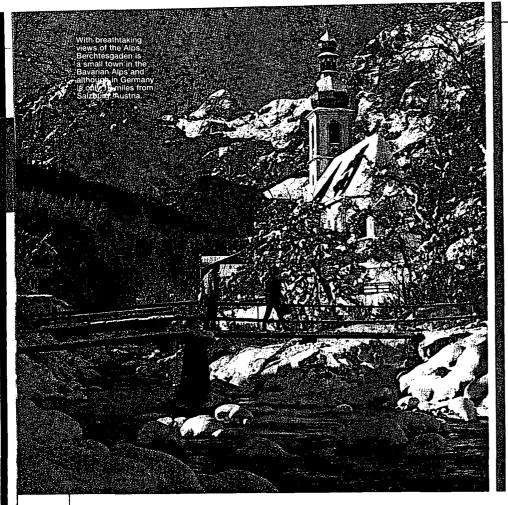
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ONLY ON A VACATION TO THE ALPS

have I ever stirred at dawn, naturally and well rested. Each morning I slipped out of bed, dressed hastily, felt pure anticipation. Would I be the first to leave an imprint on a silvery-white slope? First to hear church bells ring...stroll past silent shops...arrive at the local bakery for fresh, warm rolls with hand-churned butter and a cup of perfectly dark-roasted brew? First to catch the sun glinting on surrounding Alpine peaks?

I began my Alpine tour in St. Moritz, Graubünden: a sparkling gem 6,000 feet high in the Swiss Alps, encircled by magnificent crystal mountains. Here, the sun shines 322 days a year—perfect for hosting more than 150 events in winter alone! While many of these events require skis, snowboards and sleds, there's much more to experience—polo and cricket competitions on a frozen lake; hot-air balloon rides above snow-blanketed valleys; shopping for the finest in everything. Build your trip to Switzerland around "Snow and Symphonie" (March 17-27, 2006) to enjoy internationally acclaimed orchestras and soloists performing in grand hotels and against the backdrop of majestic Alpine peaks. Or begin at the heart of winter: January 30-February 4, 2006, welcomes internationally renowned chefs for

the annual Gourmet Festival. Make reservations immediately! The Grand Finale lunch, celebrated at Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains, is limited to 300 people. Bon appétit!

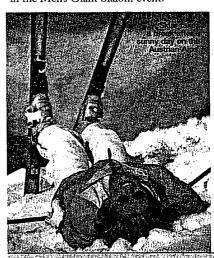
Then head west to Lucerne and transport yourself to another time. Visit "Kapellbrücke"—the famed covered bridge spanning the Reuss river. Board a steamboat to explore Lake Lucerne, and a mountain railway to enjoy breathtaking vistas. Take in this tiny town's ten museums. (In fact, Switzerland has the world's highest concentration of museums—980 in total.) Travel southwest into Bern, the country's capital and a striking example of medieval architecture. From here visit Jungfraujoch—where the Ice Palace, a large cave hewn 200 meters into the glacier, is adorned with myriad ice sculptures—and

Geneva for world-class performance art and easy transportation to the French Alps.

The small valley and town of Aosta lay between Swiss and French borders boasts more than 25 ski resorts and offers an unmatched cultural experience, from Roman architecture to the Noir Film Festival in Courmayeur. And it's a short hop to both the region of Lombardy, located at the foot of the Italian Alps, and Turin-where, during early winter, the nights are transformed into an open air gallery with the "Luci d'Artista" (Artist's Lights), an event that unites famous avant-garde and contemporary artists, displaying luminous masterpieces and brilliant light installations. Be sure to visit the many palaces that decorate Turin, including the Royal apartments in Palazzo Reale, the official residence of the Savoy dynasty. Don't miss out on experiencing Turin's "cafe' culture" and its "bicerin" - the city's signature blend of coffee, milk, and chocolate.

For an Italian winter destination that attracts professional athletes and amateurs in equal measure head to South Tyrol/Südtirol—paradise on earth for active travelers. With numerous large-scale winter-sports events, both holiday guests and day-trippers can put their qualities to the test, either as athletes or as active spectators.

One of the first appointments of the season, and at the same time one of the most spectacular races in the International Ski Federation (FIS) World Cup calendar, will take place on the famous racing run in Val Gardena. On December 16th and 17th, racers will swoop down the Saslong-Piste at breakneck speeds exceeding 60 mph in the Men's Downhill and Super Giant Slalom event. One day later on December 18th, it is the turn of the "zigzag" specialists to race down the technically challenging Gran Risa piste in Alta Badia in the Men's Giant Slalom event.



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St. Leonard Cart Ride: In honor of St. Leonard of Limousin, patron saint of cattle, the St. Leonard cart ride is one of the most charming equestrian pilgrimages in Germany. Farmers and townsfolk dressed in traditional wear travel in a procession of about 80 horse-drawn carts through historical Marktstrasse to mount Kalvarienberg. www.bad-toelz.de

NOVEMBER 25 . **DECEMBER 18, 2005**

Altötting's Christmas Market: Discover Altoetting and its beautiful surroundings in the footsteps of Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, and visit the Shrine of our Lady. The "living Nativity scene" during the "Christkindlmarkt" on beautiful Kapellplatz square is another highlight that attracts visitors from all over. The market stage has a daily program of festive events. www.altoetting-touristinfo.de

NOVEMBER 28, 2005

Zibelemärit: The upper part of the old city of Bern transforms into a traditional market with farmers selling their plaited strings of onions, along with other winter vegetables, drupes, and nuts. In the afternoon and evening, the carnival spirit enters into the proceedings. There are confetti battles, people dressed in disguise, and small groups who appear as jesters in the restaurants.

DECEMBER 11, 2005

Escalade: To remember and celebrate the battle in 1602 when the people of Geneva valiantly defended their city from the Duke of Savoy, a large, torch-bearing procession with people in period costumes proceeds through the streets of the old city along both banks of the Rhone. Arriving at St. Peter's Cathedral, participants sing patriotic songs, and the ceremony concludes with a huge bonfire.

DECEMBER 16 - 18, 2005

Alpine Ski World Cup: South Tyrol/ Südtirol, a winter paradise on earth for active vacationers, hosts one of the most spectacular races in the International Ski Federation (FIS) World Cup calendar. A mustattend event for anyone interested in worldclass downhill skiing. www.suedtirol.info

JANUARY 20 - 22, 2006

66th International Hahnenkamm Race: Kitzbuehel. Tirol hosts the world's best ski racers to compete in the alpine disciplines of Super G, downhill and slalom, the traditional Hahnenkamm Champion will be determined by the fastest combined total time. www.hahnenkamm.com



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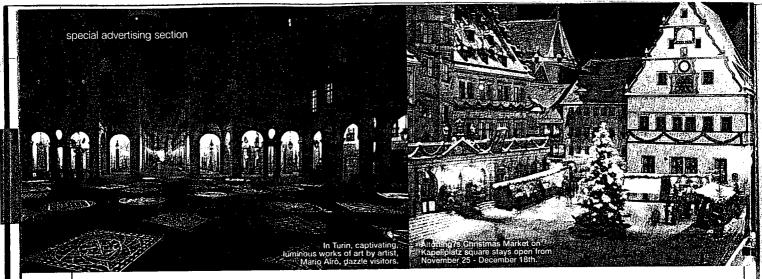
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Avid sports spectators: in February, 2006, Turin and the surrounding mountains of the Alps (including Bardonecchia, Sestriere, and Claviere) will host the 20th Olympic Winter Games! These Olympics will bring sport and culture together. Turin will offer a slice of Italian style, culture, and cuisine to complement the courage, commitment and enthusiasm of the games.

To ski or not to ski? That summarizes my internal struggle in Austria. As an ardent classical music buff (and devotee of Kandinsky!), Austria holds temptations at every turn. The hills are alive with the sound of music (pardon the pun)—Mozart, Haydn, Schubert, Strauss (Junior and Senior)—all of the

masters born here! (Take note: 2006 is the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birth. Vienna and Salzburg are planning musical and cultural events sure to set your spirit free!) Art museums and galleries dot even the tiniest hamlets. It is difficult to find balance between sport and culture in such a place.

Austria's former Imperial capital, Innsbruck, is the leading winter destination for overseas travelers—and with good reason.

The city has developed an outstanding system of free ski busses that will whisk you to any of the six major ski areas around town, as well as to nearby St. Anton and Kitzbühel. And there are plenty of sightseeing



JANUARY 20 -FEBRUARY 5, 2006

Mozart Week 2006: Salzburg's winter music festival marks the beginning of yearlong celebrations for the 250th anniversary of Mozart's birthday. On January 27, Mozart's birthday, a gala concert will be held at the exact hour of Mozart's birth in the Great Festival Hall. During the entire year, Salzburg and Vienna will celebrate this genius with a spectacular array of events. www.mozart2006.net.

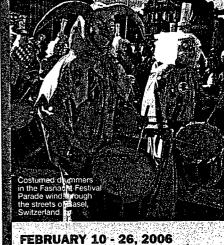


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For sunny weather and mountains of snow, head to the ski region of Arlberg. The cozy towns of St. Anton and Lech boast charming, romantic villages paired with top-notch ski resorts. Whether you take advantage of the numerous outdoor activities, or just curl up in front of a blazing fire, your head will surely be cleared of any stress.

My Alpine trip culminated in Germany. The lake district stretching across the foothills of the Upper Bavarian Alps (south of Munich) offers both picturesque scenery and exceptional Expressionist art. The "Art cum Scenic Beauty Tour" includes the Buchheim Museum in Bernried, the Franz Marc Museum in Kochel am See, Schlossmuseum, and the Münter House in Murnau. These museums, combined with the Pinakothek Museum and the Municipal Gallery in the Lenbach House, present masterpieces from the communities of the "Bridge" and the "Blue Rider"—artists responsible for marking the beginning of the Modern Age.

I must confess that Germany was specifically chosen as the last destination on this Alpine tour so I could participate in Fasching—the pre-Lenten carnival season. Who can resist heady parties (have a beer at a local watering hole and you'll surely be invited to several!), satirical theater, elaborate parades, imaginative, hand-carved masks and costume balls? And while the "Fifth Season" officially starts on "Elften Elften, Elf Uhr Elf" (the 11th day of the 11th month at 11:11 a.m.), festivities continue at a low-key pace until the "Tolle Tage" (Crazy Days), climaxing on "Rosenmontag"—the 42nd day before Easter.

In Munich, Fasching is celebrated with more than one thousand costume balls. In the Black Forest, hand-carved wooden masks and street festivals mark the season. Groups of people emerge all wearing the same costume, walking the same and behaving the same—quite startling! After skiing and celebrating in the German Alps, I was ready to head homewhere I welcomed the snooze button.







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FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.alpseurope.com www.austria.info/us www.cometogermany.com www.italiantourism.com MySwitzerland.com

[ITALY = AUSTRIA = GERMANY = SWITZERLAND]

March-April, 2005 Volume 18, Number 2

The

NEWSLETTER

Been There, Done That:

Visit Four "New" Resorts on the

Great Colorado Ski Safari

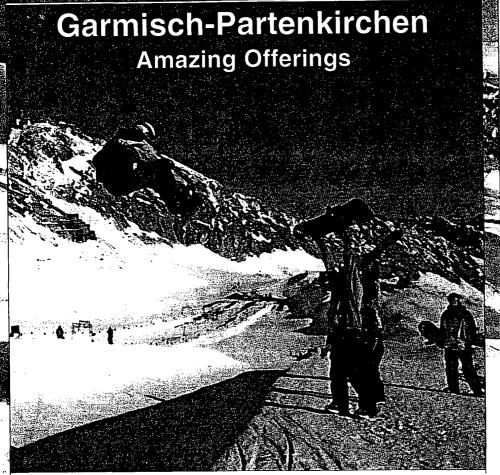
Resort Review:

The Small Village Charm and Big Ski Slopes of Kfizbühel, Austrie

Plus:
The beginning of the ski club sleeper bus

Spring ski show dates

Vail's Adventure Ridge.



The romance of rural Bavaria is palpable everywhere in Germany's winter sports capital. The 9,715-ft Zugspitze, Germany's highest mountain, towers above this picturesque town and is well known to millions of members of the U.S. armed forces who skied here over the last five decades. Many discovered their love of skiing here. The huge skiing area, including a skiable glacier atop the Zugspitze has terrain that pleases skiers of all classes.

There are 37 miles of ski runs in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, but the Happy Ski Card covers 157 miles of slopes in the region, some extending to Austria. Snowboarders have a blast on the Zugspitze plateau, and on the Schneeferner, with its wide slopes, fun-park, and Superpipe. Each year in early summer, snowboarders and some freestylers meet at the GAP 1328 summer camp.

The Kandahar downhill on the Kreuzeck Mountain is the German Alps' most challenging run – only recommendable to experts. This year, the Super G and downhill races took place on the dreaded Kandahar in February. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a candidate for the 2011 FIS Alpine World Ski Championship.

Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a member of the Best of the Alps group of classic resorts, and its cultural and gastronomic offerings are second to none. Bavarian entertainment in mountain inns and bars as well as a casino provide fun after a day on the slopes. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is situated on the German Alpine Road and world famous romantic sites can be reached within an hour by car or bus. Neuschwanstein, built by eccentric King Ludwig II, is a popular destination on a ski-free afternoon. The tuneful musical "Ludwig II – Yearning for Paradise" is staged in nearby Fuessen, at a romantic lake in full view of Ludwig's castles.

Accommodation, ranging from mountain inns to luxury hotel, is surprisingly affordable. For example, Hotel Reindl's Partenkirchner Hof, a 5-star hotel, offers single rooms from 72 Euro - 135 Euro. Garmisch-Partenkirchen is reached from Munich in about 90 minutes by car; the train-ride from the airport takes 2.5 hours, and from Munich's main railroad station less than 90 minutes.

Four Seasons Travel Club Trip to Kitzbühel

By Bob Rosensteel, Club President

The Four Seasons Ski and Travel Club skied Kitzbühel in February, staying at the Tiefenbrunner, a comfortable hotel in the center of town. The area offers 60 lifts and 102 miles of skiing in a valley that stretches for 17 miles.

The picturesque village has old world charm with modern convenience and the beautiful walled medieval center, with its quaint churches, cobbled streets and attractively painted buildings is traffic free during the day and is the picture card image of a perfect "Christmas village".

The town is compact enough to get around on foot, with courtesy vehicles, buses or taxis available to take you to outlying attractions. With more than a hundred restaurants, lots of entertainment, night clubs, wine bars, accommodations to suit all tastes, and shops galore, we found Kitzbühel to be wonderful.

Nightlife is a great selling point of Kitzbühel. There is something for everyone, from throbbing bars to quite little places, nice cafes and spots for fur-coat flaunting. Much of the action starts quite late, and over forty bars guarantee a night life that lasts late into the evening. The Londoner Pub offers sing-along music and the American Bar and Lictner provide dancing until late in the morning.

Some members took excursions to Venice, Salzburg, Innsbruck, and Munich. Others went to one of the five major ski areas that are located within an hour of Kitzbühel, while still others arranged for a trip to visit Neuchwanstein Castle, which Disneyland used to model their castle.

This trip had something for everyone – the skier, the person looking for the simple joy of relaxation and to be pampered, and those looking for the romance of sharing something special with a loved one.



Cortina d'Ampezzo

Often called the "Queen of the Dolomites," Cortina sports the perfect mix of traditional mountain village with modern comforts and amenities, from cozy alpine inns to luxury hotels, eclectic restaurants, craft stores to designer boutiques, state-of-the-art infrastructure and easy access to runs.

On Cristallo, you will find one of the Dolomites' most dramatic slopes. It starts from Forcella Staunies at 9,613 feet and descends the steep Cristallo Gorge with a vertical drop of 3,280 feet.

Cortina's "Skitour-Olympia" lets you experience all the slopes of the 1956 Another popular Olympics. 'Romantic Views" takes you to wonderful, moderately difficult slopes in the Lagazuoi-Cinque Torri skiing area, starting from Passo Falzarego.

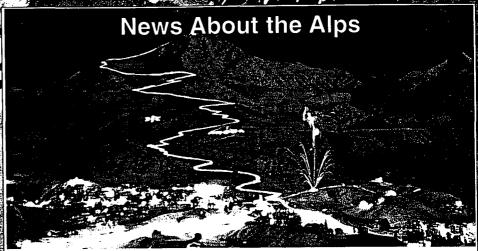
Skiing from Lagazuoi along the famous Armentarola piste, one reaches the Badia valley and the famous Dolomiti Superski circuit, which takes one full day to ski.

There is excitement even for nonskiers and families, for example at the "Cortina Adrenalin Center" with its 39 platforms fixed on the larch trees and as many suspended crossings in a larch wood, surrounded by marvelous natural scenery at the Olympic Bob Track.

cortina@adrenalincenter.it www.dolomiti.org;

www.italiantourism.com





Fireworks at Arosa

The upcoming events stated here are typical of what skiers can expect in the Alps next year as well. Some of the happenings and offerings are recurring annually, albeit with different dates.

Dolomiti Super Kids - March 22 to the end of the season. Free hotel stays and ski passes for children up to age 8 (born after 27/11/1996); a 50% discount for those between 8 and 12 years old (born after 27/11/1992). The offer is valid at all participating hotels. A transfer service is available during the Winter Season from Venice and Treviso airports, For more information, see for all guests staying at Cortina's Hotels. www.dolomiti.org/dengl/Cortina; www.italiantourism.com.

Arosa, April 1-4: "Out in the Snow" Skiing and celebrating to the rhythms of Latin music, racing downhill in the morning, partying at night in this lovely ski village in Graubünden. Location: For more information, see Tschuggenhütte. www.caliente.ch.

Val Gardena, April 3, 2005: "Gardenissima" - the longest giant slalom of the Dolomites. A 3.7-mile run from the peak of the Seceda down to S. Cristina. For more information, see www.suedtirol.info.

St. Anton am Arlberg, Ladies Week, April 9 to 16, 2005, a perfect blend of skiing and wellness. Torchlight hike, horse-drawn sleigh ride into romantic Verwall valley, visit to a wine cellar. www.stantonamarlberg.com; For more information, see www.austria.info/us

National Flower Show (Buga): From 28 April to 9 October, 2005

The National Flower Show in Munich in 2005: surprising, emotional, and different! For more information, see www.bayern.by; www.buga2005.de.

BGD Open 2005 - 4th International Berchtesgaden Open in Paragliding. May 4 -10, 2005: The Jenner gondola takes visitors from Königssee to the top station at 1,8005,904 ft. www.berchtesgadener-land.info; www.cometogermany.com.

Gap 1328 Summer Camp 2005, May 7 – June 12. Snowborders and Freeskiers meet on the Zugspitze. Fabulous deep snow slopes, Fun-Park, and Germany's highest Open-Air Whirlpool. www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de. See www.cometogermany.com.

Engadin Valley (Graubünden): VIP ENGADINEcard - a credit card that opens turnstiles and makes headlines as a bus ticket. Use your card to travel by bus, to open your hotel room and your parking garage, and pay with it in over 30 million shops worldwide - no cash needed - while taking advantage of different discounts and the attractive ENGADIN bonus program at the same time. See www.engadincard.ch.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

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Interlaken

Enticing Entrance to the Jungfrau Region...



If you look out the hotel window in Interlaken, your heart starts pounding: Three giants are looming - Eiger, Mönch, and Jungfrau. These majestic peaks rise more than 13,000 feet and are the stuff of legend and lore. Interlaken, as the name suggests, is situated between lakes – Lake Thun and Lake Brienz.

In the winter, visitors enjoy skiing and snowboarding, cross country, snowshoeing, tobogganing, ice-skating, heliskiing, ice climbing, and ice canyoning. Interlaken is a favorite with the young and hip Swiss. About 50 percent of the region's runs are in the intermediate range. Advanced skiers enjoy 20 percent and beginners 30 percent of the runs.

Hiking, golfing, paragliding and mountain climbing are activities of choice in the spring and summer. Visitors relax and recharge between crystal-clear lakes and snow-capped peaks. Interlaken is amazingly affordable: packages in a budget hotel include even the entrance to the Mystery Park, where some of the world's greatest enigmas are explored. On the high-end of the hotel-scale is the five-star Victoria-Jungfrau Grand Hotel, in the Belle Époque style, dating from 1865 and overlooking the Jungfrau Massif.

Myriad excursions, activities and events make Interlaken a fascinating destination. A day trip to the Jungfraujoch reveals an eternal world of snow and ice. Even the Aletsch-Jungfrau-Bietschhorn UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site is easily accessible from Interlaken.

Schilthorn – Piz Gloria affords a glorious 360° panorama: 200 Alpine peaks glide by as visitors enjoy dinner in the world's first revolving restaurant. It was featured in a James Bond film. The Mont Blanc looms in the southwest, and Germany's Black Forest comes into view in the north.

At the St. Beatus Caves, the saint's abode and a prehistoric settlement intrigue visitors; Schynige Platte boasts an Alpine Garden. Kleine Scheidegg is the pass between the Lauterbrunnnen and Grindelwald valleys at the foot of Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau. June 4-6, 2005, the Swiss Inline Street Slalom Cup will take place in Interlaken. "Unspunnen," the famous Swiss Costume and Alpine Festival, which celebrates its 200th anniversary, will draw people to Interlaken Sept. 2 - 4, 2005. For more information, see http://www.interlakentourism.ch; http://www.MySwitzerland.com.

Val Di Fassa/Moena, Italy

By Ken Pribil, Vertical Value, Ltd.

In a week at Val Di Fassa, the Vertical Value Group skied a different area each day, rarely skiing the same trail twice, using the Dolomiti Super Ski Pass that accesses twelve major ski resorts, and hundreds of miles of lift accessed, groomed slopes. These areas offer more than just downhill skiing. They boast quaint alpine villages, owner-occupied hotels, and friendly people that help you decide on other activities such as snow shoeing, horse drawn sleigh rides, boutique shopping, etc., while enjoying local festivals and traditions, that many of the well known resorts no longer offer.

Val Di Fassa is a true paradise, with over 125 miles of groomed slopes from which to choose. From Canazei, in the top of the valley to Moena, at the entrance of the valley, there is a variety of skiing unsurpassed in many other locations in the Alps or in the Dolomites. One day, we skied the famous Sella Ronda through towns in Val Gardena, Corvara, and Arabba. Other days we enjoyed the uncrowded major ski areas of Latemar/ Obreggen, Alpa Lusia, and San Pelligrino. A free ski shuttle bus service links all of these ski areas and many are just a few kilometers from Canazei or Moena.

We enjoyed the long, open cruisers that encircle the Sella Ronda, or Alpa Luisa. Challenged ourselves to the steep runs of Arabba or Latemar, and skied the world cup runs through Selva, Val Gardena and Alta Badia, San Cassiano.

Val Di Fassa has something for everyone. From the busy atmosphere of the après ski at Canazei to the more reasonably prices in Moena, or the family oriented pleasures at Vigo Di Fassa, this valley is an affordable winter playground.



Garmisch-Partenkirchen A Best of the Alps Resort for all Seasons By Helga Brenner



A legendary Alpine town that maintained the centuries-old Alpine authenticity and ambiance while meeting the high standards and state-of-the art facilities expected by today's travelers. Springtime visitors sense its feel right away: the promise of unforgettable and restorative vacations is in the air. Buoyed by the anticipation of an invigorating vacation, they can't wait to explore the nooks and crannies and hike the trails, where in winter skiers cruise and carve around the Zugspitze or any of the other mountains embracing the resort.

This is indeed a climatic spa town for all seasons. It offers Nordic walking, today's trend sport, as well as hiking, mountain biking and every other kind of summer activity in the bracing alpine air of the Wetterstein range. The picture-perfect Lake Eibsee is ideal for lakeside walks, boatrides, watersports – all in full view of Germany's highest peak, the 1,000-ft Zugspitze.

Accompanied by a local guide, experienced mountaineers delight in a challenging trek from the summit of the Zugspitze to the Austrian Tirol through snow, a rocky area, meadows and a high-altitude forest. Border-crossing under your own power!

After a day in the glorious outdoors, a sensual spa experience such as an herbal hay bath awaits! Guests feel pampered and forget the stresses and strains of workaday life as the carefully handmowed hay takes its effect during the treatment. Certified WellVital Hotels, like the four-star Forsthaus Graseneck offer amazing packages, including the latest wellness programs, at rates that overseas visitors surprisingly low.

See http://www.cometogermany.com, http://www.Garmisch-Partenkirchen.de, http://www.Garmisch-Partenkirchen.de; or http://www.cometogermany.com for more information.



Bregenz Festival, Austria

Garmisch-Partenkirchen: - Richard Strauss Days. Music Festival June 24 - 28, 2005 5th Int. BMW Motor Biker Meeting, July 1 - 3, 2005

www.cometogermany.com; www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de.

Mystery-Inferno-Triathlon: Thun-Beatenberg-Interlaken-Schilthorn, August 20, 2005. www.MySwitzerland.com.

National Flower Show (Buga), Munich: 28 April 28 to October 9, 2005.

www.buga2005.de; www.cometogermany.com.

"Schubertiade": Franz Schubert's music is celebrated in Schwarzenberg/Vorarlberg. May 13-16; June 10-27; July 13-17; and August 24-September 10, 2005. www.austria.info/us. **Bregenz Festival:** July 20 to August 21, 2005. www.austria.info/us.

Vienna Marathon: June 22, 2005. www.austria.info/us.

Arena die Verona: Verdi's operas will be performed in the 2000-year-old arena,

June through August 2005, www.arena.it; www.italiantourism.com.

Alta Badia, Alto Adige/Suedtirol: International Cycling Marathon along the Dolomites pass roads, July 3, 2005, www.altabadia.org; www.italiantourism.com.

Landshut Wedding of 1475: One of Europe's largest historical festivals takes place in Landshut near Munich from June 25 to July 17, 2005. Extraordinary pageantry not to be missed! www.landshut.de; www.cometogermany.com.

Cortina d'Ampezzo: 40th Summer International Curling Tournament, June 23 - 26, 2005. International Mountain Bike Race GranFondo "Cortina-Dobbiaco", July 24, 2005. www.dolomiti.org/dengl/cortina/ce/ceman/index.html.

Gstaad, Allianz Swiss Open: Tennis Tournament July 2-10, 2005 www.MySwitzerland.com.

Dolomite cycling tour in Lienz starts June 12, 2005. It comprises the classic 70-mile course and the 116-mile marathon course, www.austria.info/us.

Via Alpina: Europe's most popular long-distance trail winds its way through Tirol, climbing rugged peaks and passing pristine lakes, alpine bogs, hardwood forests and streams, www.austria.info.us.

Berchtesgaden: Combine a boat trip on the emerald-green Lake Königssee with a hike to Lake Obersee. Hike from hut to hut in the national park. Guided hikes on nature and botanic trails are also offered, www.berchtesgaden.de; www.cometogermany.com.

The thrill of flying: The Caproni Museum in Trento is hosting an exhibition until September 11, 2005, illustrating the secret techniques used by birds and flying machines to defy gravity and fly. www.italiantourism.com.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

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Summer Surprises in Alta Badia

By Helga Brenner

Many a skier from the United States has fallen in love with Italy's Südtirol/Alto Adige and is dreaming of a visit to this mythical region in the warmer months. Its hospitable people, most of whom speak Ladin, the ancient Rhaeto-Romanic dialect derived from Latin, know how to make theirs guests' dreams come true! Join them on their farms, witness their age-old customs, visit their log huts and sample their delicious food. Ladin, Italian and Germanic culture and traditions intersect here.

Alta Badia is a large valley ringed by the pale peaks of the Dolomites. It comprises six villages whose popularity is ever increasing. This is not surprising: it is linked to the Sella Ronda, the world's largest ski circuit. Alta Badia is home to award-winning restaurants and hotels and excellent tourism facilities. Fortunately, its Alpine character and pristine environment have been kept intact. Among the best-known villages are Corvara, Badia, San Cassiano and La Valle. Extraordinary shapes and colors at the foot of the Dolomites and the enchanting Alpine scenery make Alta Badia a magical destination. Unforgettable sunsets seem to set the Dolomites on fire when the peaks are dipped in a reddish hue.

Südtirol is also famous for its castles and wine cellars, which can be reached on day tours. Walk through forests, flower-speckled fields and around mountain lakes. Enjoy musical evenings, horseback riding, bread-baking, and visits to markets and fairs.

Hikers will be richly rewarded during the Hiking Weeks (August 27 to September 30, 2005). Some of the guided tours visit Ladin farm dwellings in Pedraces; Tirolean style Rifugi offering delicious local cuisine; or World War I battle sites in the Dolomites. A climb on a Via Ferrata challenges even experienced hikers.

Visitors will get a true taste of rural Ladin ambience at "La Stüa," a three-star hotel in San Cassian. In August, double rooms are offered at 79 Euro per night, including half board (minimum stay: three nights), www.hotel-lastua.it. The nearest international airport is Venice (200 km). Bolzano Airport is 100 km away. For more information see:

www.suedtirol.info www.altabadia.org www.italiantourism.com

Hiking In Switzerland

National Ski Federation Hikes Davos By Bob Wilbanks, *NSCN*

Davos, Switzerland, is best known as a world-class ski resort, or even as the site of the annual World Economic Forum, but it also offers magnificent opportunities for hiking, mountain biking, and experiencing the Alps in the summer and fall. After the National Ski Council Federation's September meeting in Engelberg, Switzerland, several of the participants were invited to Davos and enjoy the Alpine fall season.

We naturally began learning about the area by visiting a little brewery in the nearby village of Monstein where we learned about brewing and, of course, where we sampled some of their products.

Next, a short hike took us up into the mountains -- first through the forest, then through a dairy pasture that served a small Alpine cheese factory located in a mountain cottage. At the cottage, we learned how they make cheese and sampled several varieties. The next day, we took a private funicular to the Alpinum, an Alpine botanical garden located behind the 100-year-old Schatzalp Hotel that overlooks the valley, 1,000 feet above Davos and half-way up the mountain at treeline.

Mountain biking is catching on here, but hiking is still what makes this area so popular in the summer. And you don't have to hike uphill for hours to get to the top of the mountain, either. You can take a funicular, then a cable car, to the crest of the mountain. From there, you can hike back down into Davos in about two hours -- or, if you want to make a day of it, you might choose to hike to the nearby resort of Klosters in about four hours, then return in about thirty minutes by train. You can also hike to Arosa in about six hours (with a three-hour return by train). Just like skiing, hiking in the Alps is often done from village to village. See www.davos.ch for more information.



NSCF officers hiking in mountains overlooking Davos.

Seefeld

A Best of the Alps Resort in Austria

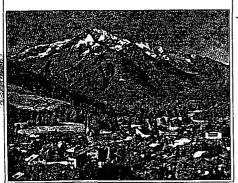
Seefeld is a jewel in the Austrian Alps that deserves to be better known among American sports enthusiasts. It has the distinction of being a member of The Best of the Alps, a consortium of 12 classic Alpine resorts in the Alps. Since Seefeld meets the authenticity, sports and hospitality standards expected of this eclectic group, it is one of the four Austrian member resorts. Its restaurants are standard bearers of the best of Austrian cuisine. See www.bestofthealps.com for details.

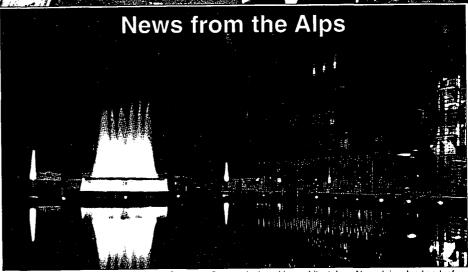
Nordic Walking, the latest trend in fitness walking, is practiced on Seefeld's ski runs. It is beneficial to the heart, reduces stress and is easier on joints than ordinary walking. You will want to come back in the winter to ski the same runs you walked in the summer.

The Olympia Sport and Congress Center and others offer Nordic Walking and supply walking poles. Hotels, like the four-star Leutscher Hof, also have programs featuring this gentle sport. See www.seefeld.at/, or www.leutascherhof.at for more information.

Traditional hiking is also a perennial favorite. The Olympia region of Seefeld, consisting of the villages of Leutasch, Mösern/Buchen, Reith, Scharnitz and Seefeld, is one of the most scenic walking areas in the Alps. About 400 miles of trails offer myriad opportunities - from strolls on flat terrain to challenging mountain hikes or daring climbing tours.

Visitors from the United Sates and elsewhere don't have to forego golf when visiting the Alps as they will love to tee off in Seefeld. The Seefeld-Wildmoos 18hole golf course is located at 4,264 feet in the center of a nature reserve surrounded by beautiful Alpine scenery, and a bucolic atmosphere. See www.seefeldgolf.com for more information.





Lucerne Festival City. The Cultural and Congress Centre, designed by architect Jean Nouvel, is a landmark city architecture in the bay of this city of lights.

- Schubertiade: August 24 September 10, 2005. Franz Schubert's music to be celebrated in Schwarzenberg/Vorarlberg.
- Bruckner Festival, Linz: Sep 11 October 2, 2005 Classical concerts with worldrenowned orchestras and soloists.
- * Via Alpina: Europe's most popular long-distance trail winds through Tirol, climbing rugged peaks and passing pristine lakes, alpine bogs, hardwood forests and streams. See www.austria.info/us for more information.
- * Caproni Museum in Trento: The thrill of flying an exhibition illustrating the techniques used by birds and flying machines to defy gravity. Until September 11, 2005.
- * Verona: 83rd Opera Festival, June 17 to Aug. 31, 2005. See www.arena.it.
- * XX Olympic Winter Games in Turin, Feb. 10 to 26, 2006. See www.italiantourism.com.
- * National Flower Show: (Buga), Munich: Open until Oct 9, 2005. See www.buga2005.de
- * Callenberg Castle Festival: Aug. 15, 2005 Coburg (Bavaria).
- * Return of the cattle: "Viehscheid", traditional cattle descent. Sep. 1, 2005 Allgäu region (Bavaria).
- * String Festival: Classical Music. Aug. 24 to Sep. 3, 2005 Füssen (Bavaria).
- * Oktoberfest: Munich, Sep 17 Oct 3, 2005. The world's biggest public festival.
- * Berchtesgaden: Combine a boat trip on emerald-green Lake Königssee with a hike to Lake Obersee. www.berchtesgaden.de See www.cometogermany.com.
- * "Cartier Polo Silver Cup Gstaad," Equestrian Sports Aug. 18 21, 2005.
- * Athletics: World Class Zürich, August 2005. Largest international track and field event in Switzerland.
- * Lucerne's Festival Summer: Aug. 12 Sep. 18, 2005. See www.lucernefestival.ch.
- * Celerina New Orleans Jazz Festival: In the Engadine, Aug. 19 21, 2005.
- * Net Bike: Motorcycle tours and rentals. Bikers start their tours in Switzerland and ride vertiginous passes, through forests and plains all over Europe. Go to www.netbike.tv.
- * Ideal starting point for adventures in the Aletsch Glacier region: Sporthotel Derby in Fiesch, offering mountain bike tours off the beaten track and fixed-rope excitement in summer, carving lessons and snowshoeing in winter. For more information see www.sporthotelderby.ch, and www.MySwitzerland.com.

For more information contact the ATC at www.alpseurope.com or:

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September-October 2005 Volume 18, Number 5

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Garmisch-Partenkirchen a resort for all seasons By Helga Brenner

Germany's winter sports center is not only a skier's paradise, but also offers traditional and trendy sports such as hiking, mountain biking, hang gliding, tennis, and golf. The allergen-free air contributes to the Olympic city's fame as a year-round climactic health resort. Bavarian hospitality and excellent accommodation ranging from cozy Bed & Breakfasts to world-class hotels, never fails to make visitors from the United States feel at home. In fact, many American service men discovered their love of skiing on the slopes of the 10,000-foot Zugspitze and on the Eckbauer, Hausberg, Wank and Alpspitze mountains embracing Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

Hikers can enjoy "Brotzeit," a typically Bavarian repast, at any of the eleven huts dotting Garmisch-Partenkirchen's mountains, all part of the Wetterstein range. Unforgettable is the congenial atmosphere at Knorrhütte, Reintalhütte or Wankhaus, for example. Consider staying overnight at impressive Münchner Haus, a 108-year-old hut near the summit of the Zugspitze! An easy hike leads to Schachenhaus, King Ludwig II's solitary hunting lodge. The extravagant king's chalet, built 1871, boasts a magnificent hall in Moorish décor. Advance booking is required. Renowned hotels such as *****Hotel Reindl's Partenkirchner Hof and ****Hotel Sonnenbichl stand for the best in Alpine hospitality. Gasthof Fraundorfer, a popular inn since 1820, offers a varied menu, Bavarian music and dancing. A cozy guesthouse is on the premises. Prices are astonishingly reasonable in this Best of the Alps town. Excursions to Ludwig II's Neuschwanstein and Linderhof castles as well as Ettal Monastery and Oberammergau are on most visitors' program.

The Zugspitze is a deep-snow paradise that attracts alpine skiers, snowboarders, carvers, and freestylers from late autumn to early spring. The skiing areas are situated between 6,561 and 9,285 feet. There are 73 miles of downhill runs for all skills, including the intimidating Kandahar, a frequent stop on the World Cup tour. There are 68 miles of Nordic trails. Night skiers enjoy the floodlit Kainzerbad Loipe. Boarders demonstrate their skills on the Zugspitze plateau, where natural obstacles lend themselves to superb jumps. The wide slopes, the fun-park, and Germany's first superpipe leave nothing to be desired. Skiing instructors for all disciplines are eager to help visitors hone their skills. Picture-perfect Garmisch-Partenkirchen is a sister city of Aspen, Colorado. www.garmisch-partenkirchen.de.

Clearwater/St. Pete Ski Club in Interlaken Switzerland

Hallelujah! Finally, a ski trip with sunny weather every day. Our Interlaken hotel, the Royal St. Georges, served an excellent breakfast and dinner each day and their staff was great. It's located just ten minutes from the train station -- where the trains to the villages of Grindelwald, Wengen, and Mürren were easy to use and a lot of fun. The villages serve as base areas for the ski areas of First, Kleine Scheidegg, Mannlichen, and Schilthorn; as well as to the Jungfraujoch, often called "The Top of Europe." Our threeout-of-seven day ski passes turned out to be just what we needed to go anywhere in the region and ski anywhere, using only the ski pass for lifts, trains, and busses.

The Schiltorn ski area is capped by a revolving restaurant on the peak of Piz Gloria. This is the restaurant that was featured in the James Bond movie, *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, and lunch there takes around an hour -- about the time it takes the restaurant to revolve 360 degrees, allowing you see all of the surrounding majestic mountains. After lunch, you take the long cruising run back to the quaint village of Mürren.

Across the valley is Wengen, another little village at the base of the Mannlichen area. On the other side of the mountain is the Klein Scheidegg ski area, with the somewhat larger village of Grindelwald at its base. The ski area of First towers over Grindelwald on the facing mountain. These areas offered good lifts, great cruisers, and three big mountains of fun!

Interlaken, means "between the lakes," and it sits at the base of the ski areas. It's a small town of about 10,000, complete with a casino, excellent restaurants, and affordable shopping. We found it to be an excellent base for a multi-resort ski trip that is both fun and affordable. For more information see www.interlakentourism.ch



CWSP ski club members in Interlaken

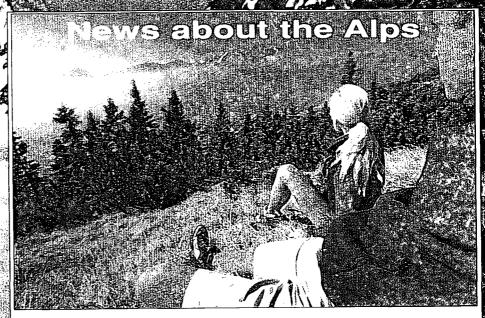
Cortina d'Ampezzo Italy's Best of the Alps Resort

As one of the Dolomites' most marvelous resorts, Cortina d'Ampezzo has attracted American skiers for years, especially since the 1956 Winter Olympics. This ski village has preserved its authentic Alpine village character and it is therenot surprising that Cortina d'Ampezzo is a member of the Best of the Alps group of classic resorts. There are twelve of these authentic resorts strewn over the Alpine countries.

Most of Cortina's runs are the dream of intermediate and advanced skiers. It's true that even non-skiers come up from the Italian plains to enjoy the Alpine ambience and to see and be seen on the Corso Italia. Cortina's location in the Belluno Dolomites grants access to the Sella Ronda, the world-famous ski circuit linking half a dozen villages. A state-of-theart lift system whisks visitors to the top of runs opening up breathtaking views. One of the cable cars to the west takes you to Col Druscie, the starting point of a double lift to the Bus Tofana, which connects to Tofana di Mezzo (10,705 ft). From Cortina's Piazza Roma, a cable car leads to Pocol-Belvedere, a hotel complex overlooking the Cortina Valley. If you have a penchant for scrumptious Italian food, Cortina can certainly fulfill your craving. Sought-after Tivoli restaurant boasts a Michelin star and overlooks Cortina. Among Cortina's renowned hotels are Hotel Ancora and Hotel Bellevue on Corso Italia, the Cristallo Hotel and Spa, the Miramonti Majestic Grand Hotel as well as Hotel Menardi – to name but a few. Nighttime entertainment is among the Alps' most exciting. After exploring the Dolomites and falling in love with Cortina, you will want to come back for more.

For more information about Cortina, see www.bestofthealps.com.





Garmisch-Partenkirchen:

- Downhill cart racing is a new fun sport for those who dare in the Zugspitze region.
- · Beginning September 26, 2005, Garmisch-Partenkirchen offers weekly nordic walking tours with trained instructors, Monday-Friday.

Cortina d'Ampezzo:

- The Cortina Adrenalin Center thrills with new sensations on acrobatic traverses.
- Wheel Taxi-Bob rushes down the Olympic run at the same speed as the winter version. www.cortina.dolomiti.org; www.italiantourism.com.

Bregenz:

• Thrilling Three-Country Marathon, September 28 to October 4, 2005. Lindau - Bregenz (Vorarlberg) - Swiss lakeside villages - Rhine River - Bregenz.

Salzburg, Kufstein, Brixen, Bad Ischl, Mayerhofen and dozens of other Austrian towns:

· "Bringing Home the Cattle" in colorful procession in September.

(The same custom prevails also in the German, Swiss & Italian Alps. www.alpseurope.com.)

Innsbruck:

· Swarovski's special exhibition "Temporary Enchantment," depicting crystals in everyday life. Until February 5, 2006.

Salzburg:

Salzburg Jazz Fall. October 28 to November 6, 2005. Jazz concerts, movies & exhibitions.

Alpbach:

· Europe's most beautiful flower village offers fascinating hiking, biking tours, paragliding, horseback riding and water sports. Guided walk up Thalerkögel, Sept. 28, 2005. www.austria.info/us.

Zürich:

• Zürich Open, international tennis tournament (Women), October 15 to 23, 2005. Europe's top tennis tournament on the WTA Tour, at Hallenstadion.

Jungfrau

Best of the Alps

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· Davidoff Swiss Indoors, October 22-30, 2005. Biggest Swiss sports event; one of the world's most important indoor tournaments. In St. Jakobshalle. www.MySwitzerland.com.

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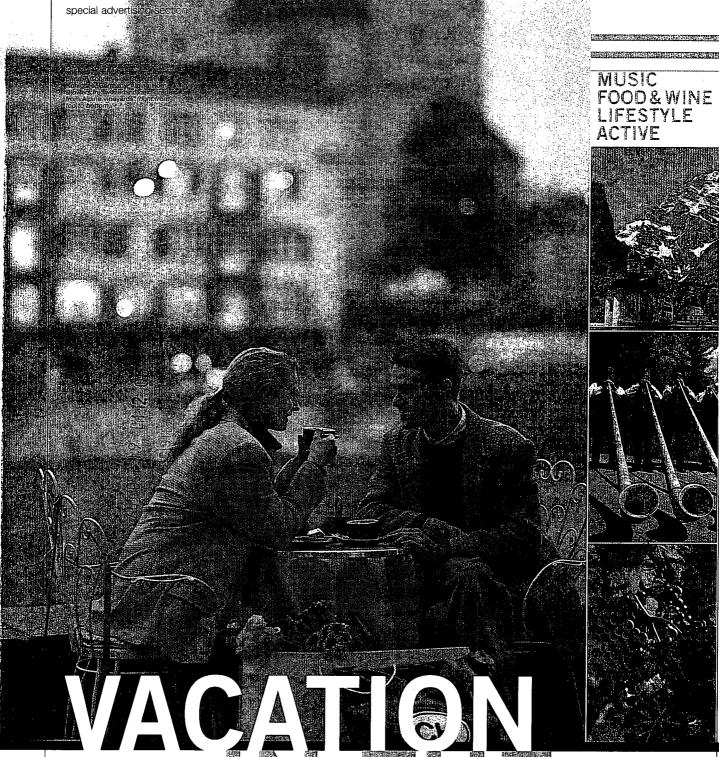
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ITALY AUSTRIA GERMANY SWITZERLAND

CROSSING BORDERS AND CULTURES



or me, the Alps have always seemed like the great crossroads of Europe. One reason for this is simple geography: Perched at the very center of the European landmass, the Alps serve naturally as the continent's rendezvous point, its lively town square—you might even say its heart—where the diverse citizens of many countries can come

together and intermingle. These mountains, after all, have been the gateway between northern and southern Europe ever since Hannibal crossed them in 218 BC, and there aren't too many places on the continent that are more than a few hours away (except, perhaps, by elephant). With a number of direct flights into the region and neighboring countries accessible within hours, a vacation including all the Alpine countries is wonderfully possible.

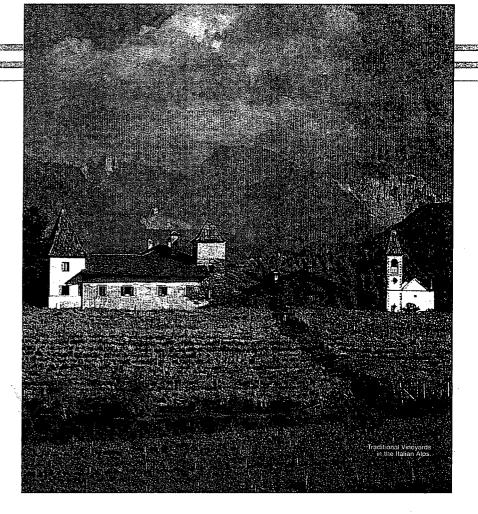
But there's also something about the atmosphere here that seems to draw people of all types and tempers. Maybe it's the tradition of warm hospitality to travelers, or the devotion to a healthier, more natural lifestyle based on the rhythm of the seasons, or even just the calming, head-clearing purity of the chill mountain air. Or perhaps the appeal has more to do with the allure of crossing borders. Where else can you spend Friday night dining at a mountainside trattoria in Italy, Saturday afternoon skiing the slopes of Switzerland, and then Sunday evening listening to a festival concert in Germany or Austria-all against a backdrop of breathtaking Alpine scenery?

Whatever the explanation, one thing is certain: The Alps are a place where the best of Europe comes together to form a culture all its own, invigorating to mind, body, and spirit.

The richness of Alpine history is a particular attraction for me. Numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites are tucked away in and around these mountains, and nearly all are easily accessible. Perhaps my favorite is the historical town center of Salzburg, where a genteel Baroque city (the legacy of Salzburg's Italianinspired Prince-Archbishops) has been shoehorned into an old Gothic streetscape. But there are also other sites here with very different historic moods, from the brooding medieval solemnity of Castelgrande in Ticino to the ornate Rococo flamboyance of the fabulous Pilgrimage Church of Wies in Bavaria. And other vestiges of Alpine history go back much farther than that: In Valcamonica in the Italian Alps you can find prehistoric petroalvphs inscribed on cliffs that seem to shimmer beneath the skyscraping peaks.

The more modern side of Alpine culture, however, has a magnetism of its own. The elegance of the esplanades in Montreux or Vevey (where there's a charming little statue of Charlie Chaplin, who spent his last years here) make Lake Geneva a sanctuary for those seeking a certain kind of sophisticated repose—one that just might involve window-shopping at Cartier or Armani before taking high tea on the terrace of a

www.alpseurope.com

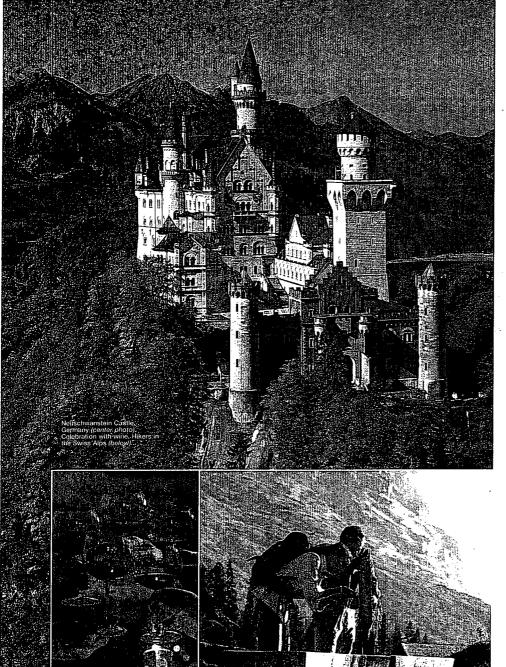


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grand lakeside hotel. This kind of high-style pampering can also be found (with a slightly different accent) at other resort towns in the Alps—at Bad Blumau, where traditional mudwrap cures can be taken in an ultramodern spa designed by the architect Hundertwasser, or at Bellagio on Lake Como, a resort that over the years has attracted celebrities ranging from Lord Byron to George Clooney.

One major lure of the Alps has always been music. The number of worldclass festivals that take place here is astonishing. Foremost among them, of course, is the Salzburg Festival, that annual midsummer explosion of fashion, classical music, and seeand-be-seen revelry. But there are many others where the music-making is just as stellar (and where the tickets might actually be easier to get). The Bregenz Festival on Lake Constance, for instance, or the Lucerne Festivals (there's one around Easter and another in late summer) are truly premier events, featuring artists on the order of soprano Renee Fleming and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra. 2005 marks two other important cultural celebrations as well-both of them in the Swiss capital of Bern. The city's new Paul Klee Center, featuring the world's largest collection of the Swiss Expressionist's paintings, opens in June. And that same month brings the Historical Museum's centennial observance of Albert Einstein's "annus mirabilis"- 1905, when the great physicist, then living in Bern, published a series of momentous scientific papers, including one that introduced the theory of relativity that would fundamentally change our understanding of the universe. [See sidebar for specifics about these and other 2005 events.]

SPECIAL EVENTS IN THE ALPS THIS SEASON:

APRIL 28 TO OCTOBER 9: Landshut Wedding:

A quadrennial festival in which 2000 participants in medieval costume transform a small Bavarian town into a major historical experience. Landshut, Germany.

www.tiscover.de/landshut

JUNE 20:

Paul Klee Center Opening:

Debut of a new museum devoted to the works of the famous Swiss painter, in a building designed by architect Renzo Piano, who is also designing the new New York Times Building in New York. Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland.

JUNE 24 TO 28:

Richard Strauss Festival '05 Garmisch-Partenkirchen:

Chamber music, song recitals and symphony concerts pay homage to the composer Richard Strauss, who lived and worked in Garmisch-Partenkirchen from 1908 until his death in 1949.

www.cometogermany.com

But the Alps offer plenty of inspiration for the body as well as the mind. Diehard snow-sport aficionados, of course, can find summer skiing at several of the high-lying glaciers in the region, including the Theodul Glacier above Zermatt or the Stubai near Innsbruck. And if you're really adventurous, you can even paraglide around some of the region's more spectacular sights, like King Ludwig's unashamedly ostentatious Neuschwanstein Castle in Bavaria or the heroic peak of Monte Bianco di Courmayeur, the highest point in Italy.

Personally, though, I prefer my sports somewhat less extreme. Give me a leisurely eighteen holes at St. Moritz, beneath the startling visual drama of the Bernina massif, or a daylong bike ride from Konstanz to the little garden-island of Mainau, where a mild microclimate allows even palm trees and subtropical flowers to thrive. And I never leave the Alps without engaging in my favorite sporting pastime-mountain hiking. Here it's been turned into an art-form, with numberless trails leading off into alpine meadows or (for the more ambitious) straight up toward the rocky peaks.

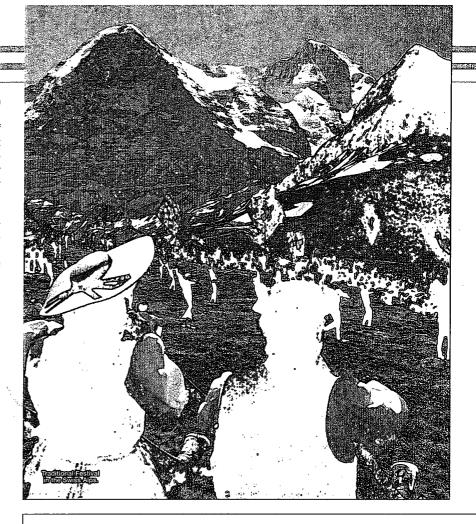
If you are looking for a spa town, visit Bad Reichenhall. An Alpine town in the extreme south-east of Germany between Salzburg, Berchtesgaden and Lake Chiemsee. Framed by the Bavarian Alps and by a magical panorama, it is the perfect place to stay and take excursions out and about. There are well tended parks, numerous health establishments, the Gradierhaus (for the evaporation of salt-water), the old saltworks, the historical Predigtstuhl cable car, the casino and a whole host of cultural events.

JULY 6 TO 10:

18th Festival of the Müller Thurgau wines of the Alps:

In the historical Palazzo Barbi, in the centre of the village, over a hundred labels from Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxemburg and Eastern Europe will be compared with the best of the Trentino production. A regular date for experts and enthusiasts from all over Europe. Trentino, Italy, www.italiantourism.com

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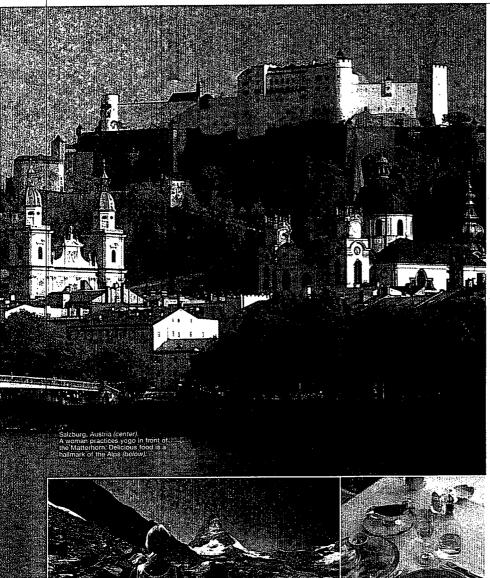
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Refueling after such exertions is always a particular pleasure in the Alps. There's no shortage of haute cuisine here, particularly around the main cities. But I prefer the more down-to-earth pleasures of a country inn or stübl where traditional Alpine specialties like Tyrolean cheese dumplings and bündnerfleisch (sliced air-dried beef) are served with great pride of place. And the local wines of the region are always a revelation to me. Austria's Grüner Veltliners, of course, have become the newest darling of oenophiles the world over, but the lesserknown wines of the region, based on grape varieties like Chasselas and Pinot Noir, are also unexpectedly pleasing. In the famed "Black Forest" area, Beden is the southernmost of Germany's wine regions. In this long, slim strip that extends from near Heidelberg in the north to Lake Constance (Bodensee) enjoy the wonderful rosé - Spätburgunder Weißherbst.

And when all is said and done, it's the magic of these simpler experiences that stays with me long after I've come home from the Alps. To sip a glass of local wine within sight of the very vineyard it came from, to hike to a little mountain village where the local innkeeper welcomes guests in three different languages, to savor a wedge of fine Appenzeller cheese made by a farmer who knows (by name!) the cows who gave the original milkthese are for me the quintessential Alpine experiences. They're what make a visit to the Alps unforgettable-not just a holiday, but a refresher course for the soul.

THE ALPS THIS SEASON:

JULY 22: Women in Art:

The sixth edition of "Women in Art" will take place in San Candido, Italy. This year's theme "Acqua che Scorre--Donna che Crea (Water flowing--Woman creating)." The subject is the intricate atmosphere of the town and its surroundings. www.suedtirol.info

JULY 25 TO AUGUST 31: Salzburg Festival:

Performances of opera, plays and concerts of the highest artistic standards over a period of five to six weeks each summer. Salzburg, Austria.

www.salzburgfestival.at

SEPTEMBER 2 TO 4: **Unspunnen Festival:**

A rare treat, this colorful folk festival in Interlaken occurs only once every 12 years and features Alpine traditions like yodeling, alphorn-playing, alpine wrestling, and the throwing of the famous 167pound Unspunnen stone. Interlaken, Switzerland. www.unspunnenfest.ch

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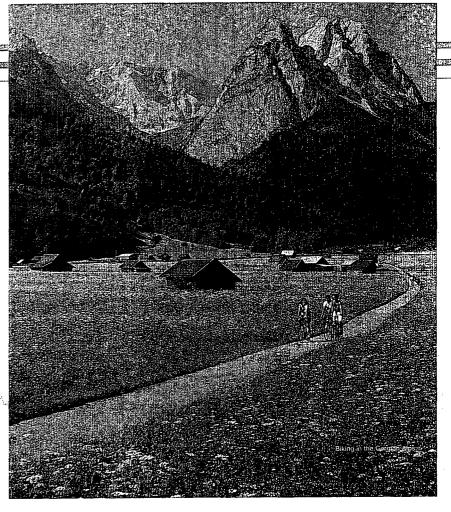
www.bestofthealps.com headoffice@bestofthealps.com

SEPTEMBER 11 TO OCTOBER 2: Bruckner Festival 2005:

One of the many annual music festivals in the Alps, this one features the music of Anton Bruckner, but a highlight this year will be a concert performance of Wagner's Die Walküre under the direction of Dennis Russell Davies.

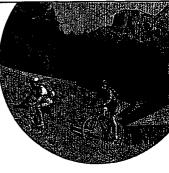
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